

Militant anti-poll tax protesters invited into the Commons



Case for the Commons: Militant supporters (from left) Mr Steve Nally, Mr Dave Nellist, MP, Mr Phil Maxwell and Mr Tommy Sheridan spelling out plans yesterday for mass burnings of poll tax forms in London.

Labour MP resigns whip

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

Militant supporters behind the wave of anti-poll tax protests around the country were invited in to the House of Commons to hold a press conference yesterday.

They threatened "mass burnings" of poll tax payment forms and predicted over 100,000 people on the streets of London at the end of the month in the biggest demonstration yet against the community charge.

Mr Dave Nellist, the Militant-supporting Labour MP, told a Commons press conference that the demonstration in London on March 31, and another in Glasgow, had been called to build a mass campaign of non-payment.

The number of Labour MPs backing the campaign was reduced by one yesterday when Mr Dick Douglas, the MP for Dumfries and Galloway, who is refusing to pay his poll tax, formally resigned the Labour whip.

Four MPs, including Mr Douglas, attended yesterday's press conference to pledge their continuing support for a campaign of civil disobedience. All were careful to condemn violence.

At another press conference in Bristol, Mr Robin Chapp, Militant's south-west organizer, promised "fury on the streets of England, Wales and Scotland, the like of which has never been seen before". He said the fury would be peaceful.

In London, Mr Tommy Sheridan, the Militant supporter who is secretary of the federation, said that once poll tax payment books arrived in April, the campaign would be organizing "mass burnings" of poll tax payment books.

The press conference was immediately condemned by Mr David Alton, the Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool Mossley. "It must be wrong that facilities in the mother of Parliaments should be made available for people to call for the law to be broken".

Iraq rejects Hurd visit over Bazoft

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Iraq has rejected an offer by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, to fly to Baghdad to ask for clemency for Mr Farzad Bazoft, the Observer journalist sentenced to death by a military court, it was disclosed yesterday.

Iraq refused the offer by saying it "would not be the right time for a visit."

His message was passed to the British Embassy in Baghdad on Wednesday morning, and later the same day the Iraqi news agency said that President Saddam Hussein would not exercise his prerogative of clemency while under

international pressure and media attention.

Mr Saddam, in his first public comment on the death sentence, said Baghdad was its own master and was not afraid of British displeasure.

"The English are displeased with us and want the old days to come back" — a reference to Britain's occupation of Iraq early this century and its influence until the Iraqi monarchy was overthrown in 1958.

He told farmers: "The Iraqis are masters of themselves... they (Britain) sent us a spy for the English and for the Israelis but your sons arrested him and sentenced him to death. Now they are angry with us and (say) we should free him and tell us if we do not free him they will do such and such."

Mr Hurd is due to fly to Oman on Saturday to attend a meeting between the European Community foreign ministers and their counterparts of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

A Foreign Office statement said: "The Foreign Secretary instructed our Embassy in Baghdad on March 12 to make it clear to the Iraqi authorities that since he was going to the EC/GCC meeting in Oman, he would be willing to fly via Baghdad to discuss the Farzad Bazoft case. On March 13 the Iraqi authorities indicated that this would not be the right time for a visit."

The Foreign Office added that the Iraqi Government made it clear it did not feel able to discuss the case in the present atmosphere. However, Britain does not regard this as a rejection of Mrs Thatcher's appeal to President Saddam for clemency.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the Iraqi response implied that the appeal was still being considered, and added that Britain was still waiting for a reply. The Government was doing all it could on behalf of Mr Bazoft and

Mrs Daphne Parish, the nurse who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for helping him. It had concentrated its efforts on generating wide international appeals to Baghdad.

"The international support so far has been heartening," the spokesman said. "The Iraqi Government can be in no doubt about the strength of feeling worldwide about this issue."

He said that if Mr Hurd's offer had been accepted he would have expected to discuss the issue "at the highest possible level", a reference to the President.

The British Embassy has still not managed to establish where the two prisoners are being held, nor has it gained consular access to them. "Our principal objective at this stage is the welfare of the two prisoners," the spokesman said. "We have not ruled out any option in our attempts to save Mr Bazoft's life."

Despite the tough Iraqi attitude the chances that the death sentence will be commuted are thought reasonably good. One possibility is that Baghdad hopes eventually to exchange him for Salim Hassan, an Iraqi serving a life sentence in Britain for the murder of a former Iraqi Prime Minister.

Since Hassan was jailed in 1978, there has always been at least one Briton in prison in Baghdad.

Miss Michelle de Vries, daughter of Mrs Parish, later held talks with Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who is responsible for the Middle East. She hopes to visit Baghdad soon to see her mother.

Miss de Vries said she was "very encouraged" by what Mr Waldegrave told her.

Asked about the refusal of Mr Hurd's offer, she said: "Obviously, I was disappointed but it's not the end of the world. The British Government have lots of other things they could do instead."



Mr Hunt: Ready to seize a golden opportunity.

Hunt is the new Welsh Secretary

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government who is in the thick of the Government's poll tax troubles, has been appointed to succeed Mr Peter Walker as Secretary of State for Wales.

But Mr Hunt will not take up his new role until late May, leaving him time to carry through the initial stages of "capping" community charges.

Meanwhile it emerged last night that Mrs Thatcher is not planning any further reshuffle of her Cabinet this year. She has lost three senior Ministers — Mr Nigel Lawson, Sir Norman Fowler and Mr Walker — within months.

Mr Hunt had been a strong tip for the Welsh post. Born in Wales but brought up in Merseyside he went to Bristol

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University and his constituency of Wirral West is close to North Wales. He was told of his new post on Tuesday night.

A personal friend of Mr Walker and generally held in high regard by the party, Mr Hunt is a patron of the Tory Reform Group, the main grouping of the Tory Wets.

Mr Walker said yesterday "He could not be a better choice and I think he will do a superb job."

Mr Hunt said that he was excited by his new position. "For someone born in Wales it must be the greatest ambition of one's life."

Brooke calls Irish ruling 'an unacceptable slur'

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent, and Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A decision by the Irish Supreme Court not to extradite two convicted terrorists to Ulster because they might be assaulted by prison staff, was an "unacceptable slur" on the Northern Ireland Prisons Service, Mr Peter Brooke, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland said yesterday.

Amid a sharp intensification of the row between London and Dublin over the decision handed down on Tuesday, Mr Brooke told the House of Commons he was "deeply disappointed" at the decision not to extradite Dermot Finucane and James Pius Clarke.

Earlier Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, speaking in Strasbourg, rejected accusations of a "slur". Backing the judgement, he indicated, in language that will do little to assuage British anger, that if Irish Supreme Court judges found fault with the Northern Ireland Prisons Service, it was up to the authorities in Ulster to put it right.

Answering an emergency question, Mr Brooke, in his first intervention over the affair, said he found the

judges' decision that the probable treatment of the men at the Maze Prison, from which they escaped in 1983, would infringe their rights under the Irish Constitution, "both disturbing and difficult to understand".

He went on to defend the prison authorities and to criticize the Supreme Court decision in unusually strident language. "It is an unacceptable slur on the professionalism of the men and women of

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the Northern Ireland Prisons Service," he said. "I shall be studying the full judgement as soon as it is available and will pay particular attention to the references to Northern Ireland prisons. The conditions in the Maze Prison, indeed throughout the prison system in Northern Ireland, are widely regarded as amongst the best in Europe."

Mr James Molynaux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, agreed that the Anglo-Irish agree-

ment had been discredited by the earlier Supreme Court ruling, on March 1, that the claim of the Irish Government to a united Ireland was not an aspiration but a valid legal claim. Since the British Government had not challenged the legal claim the Supreme Court was free to argue that it could not be expected to extradite prisoners from one part of its territory to another.

Mr Molynaux and the other unionist leader, Dr Ian Paisley, are due to meet Mr Brooke at the Northern Ireland Office in London today for a further meeting on the possibility of inter-party talks.

A senior official in the Ulster Unionist Party said last night he felt this would be the last meeting for a considerable time. He conveyed the impression that, in his view, the so-called "Brooke initiative" was now doomed.

Mrs Thatcher is expected to raise the question with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, when he makes his rounds of other heads of governments before the European Council on German reunification in Dublin on April 28.

Gorbachov nearly loses crucial vote

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov was last night elected the first executive President of the Soviet Union after a day of high passion and vicious politics in which he nearly lost a crucial vote and his Prime Minister threatened to resign.

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, was one of only two other candidates to be nominated — the second was Mr Vadim Bakatin, the Interior Minister — but both withdrew, leaving Mr Gorbachov the sole contender for the new and powerful post.

Despite intensive lobbying, Mr Gorbachov barely mustered the majority necessary to hold the presidential election at all. Many in the Congress of People's Deputies argued strongly in favour of nationwide direct elections for the presidency, rather than election by the Congress. Mr Gorbachov achieved the vital

two-thirds by a margin of fewer than 50 votes.

Exploiting divisions in the radical inter-regional group of Deputies, Mr Gorbachov permitted one of their leaders, Mr Anatoli Sobchak, to speak. Mr Sobchak accused Mr Ryzhkov of involvement in a corruption scandal in which a recent model of a tank was sold through a cooperative venture to foreign customers.

Mr Sobchak said he had seen Mr Ryzhkov's signature on a document authorizing the establishment of the cooperative.

As soon as Mr Sobchak had finished, Mr Ryzhkov sprang from his seat and rushed to the platform to defend himself. His voice breaking with anger, he admitted to signing the document as Prime Minister — as he signed all such documents — but denied any involvement.

The low birth rate was a theme that laced many speeches of Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Prime Minister, last month as he campaigned for the re-election of the Liberal Democrats, although he directed his efforts to outlining the problem — only 1.66 children per Japanese woman compared with 2.13 two decades ago — rather than prescribing a solution.

Japan rallies husbands to the birth rate's cause

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

Having failed, with winks and nudges, to persuade Japanese men to relax a little and spend more time with their families, the Government has appealed to patriotism by warning them that, unless they go home earlier and do something about the falling birth rate, the country will soon go the way of ancient Rome.

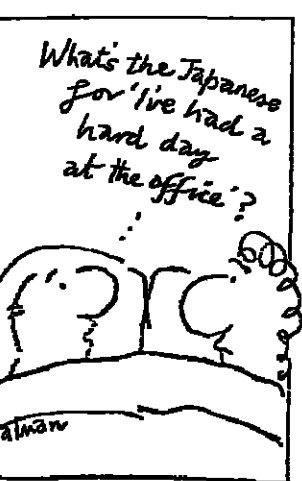
Somewhere else, so earnest a plea might have raised at least a smile.

In Japan it is met with the same serious faces that might greet news that Europeans had suddenly lost their taste for Japanese cars. After 18 months of grappling with what it calls a "quiet crisis", a Health and Welfare Ministry advisory panel has concluded that fewer

births spell economic disaster, since there will be fewer taxpayers to meet the costs of caring for an already fast-ageing society.

The panel, in an apocalyptic mood, says: "Just as was the case in the last days of ancient Rome, the decrease in the number of children is a sign of a declining civilization." It even warns that if things go on as they are, the Japanese race will be wiped out in a millennium. Nobody ever accused the nation of thinking short-term.

History is not on the Government's side. There is little to suggest that the nation's corporate warriors will change their habits and suddenly take their full two-week holiday allowance every year, leave their offices earlier, or cut short after-hours drinking with colleagues.



INSIDE

Tournament of the mind

● How familiar are you with famous quotations? Test your knowledge with Round Nine of The Times Tournament of the Mind, with questions compiled by Mensa, on page 10

● Our four-page Science & Technology feature — beginning on page 35 — examines the mysteries of sleep

● Your chance to win £8,000 playing Portfolio Platinum is on page 33

SATURDAY

● The guide to modern living — in full colour

Rover relief

British Aerospace said there had been no official call from the European Commission to repay government "sweeteners" of £38 million given when it took over Rover in a £150 million deal. Page 25

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NEWS ROUNDUP

NHS cash faces greater scrutiny

The Government last night made a key concession to Conservative backbenchers pressing for the Audit Commission to be given greater powers to investigate waste and inefficiency in the NHS (Nicholas Wood writes).

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, accepted an amendment to the NHS Bill extending the scope of the value-for-money watchdog in the £28 billion-a-year health service.

As drafted, the Bill gave the Audit Commission only limited powers to carry out the same kind of investigations in the NHS as it does in local government. Its remit extended merely to the activities of health bodies and it was forbidden to scrutinize the impact of ministerial directives on the service.

But after a backbench campaign led by Mr Andrew Mitchell, Conservative MP for Gedling, and a self-confessed "fan" of the Audit Commission, Mr Freeman gave ground last night by bringing such directives and guidance within the powers of the commission.

Solicitors' pay vote

Solicitors' leaders will vote at their council meeting today on whether or not to take the Lord Chancellor to court over his decision to increase rates of pay for legal aid by 7.5 per cent (Frances Gibb writes). The Law Society has sought the opinion of leading counsel on whether legal proceedings challenging the legality of the basis for the Lord Chancellor's decision would succeed. Solicitors have submitted a pay claim for 21 per cent and are angry that legal aid rates from criminal and matrimonial work will rise only 7.5 per cent from next month.

Monopoly ruling

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, is to examine the legality of government proposals in the broadcasting Bill for removing the monopoly of advance television listings from *TV Times* and the *Radio Times* (Sheila Gunn writes). If he rules that the legislation is hybrid, which means it involves a mixture of public and private interests, it would have to be withdrawn from Parliament. The Labour MP Mr Norman Buchanan has been pursuing a campaign against the proposals.

Baby gets adult liver

A baby boy was recovering yesterday after receiving part of an adult liver in a transplant operation. Jonathan South, aged nine months, from York, was "critical but stable" in intensive care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham (Thomson Prentice writes). The donor liver, from a young Irishwoman killed in a road accident, was cut down and grafted in a nine-hour operation. The surgery was performed after an appeal throughout Europe for a donor.

Soviet chess draw

The Soviet Union drew in its chess games with Nordic countries but kept a narrow lead over the United States and Britain after the fourth round of a team tournament (Renter reports from Reykjavik). Britain took early command in its match against the US but the Americans showed resilience to win the three longest games and kept the loss to a minimum. Standings after four rounds were: Soviet Union, 22½ points; United States, 21; Britain, 20; Nordic, 16½.

Police simulate crash

An emergency exercise that envisaged a passenger aircraft crashing on the M6 was launched yesterday in Warwick to test a new emergency telephone network that would help the police to cope with calls from the public after a disaster (Craig Seton writes). Exercise "Police-Link" was designed to simulate the kind of difficulties experienced by the police and the emergency services during the Lockerbie disaster in December 1988.

Lawyers rule out politics in extradition ruling

By Edward German
Irish Affairs Correspondent

The five Irish Supreme Court judges who refused to extradite two convicted terrorists to Northern Ireland are among Ireland's most distinguished and respected lawyers.

Despite the diplomatic furor which their decision on Tuesday provoked, most lawyers in Dublin yesterday backed their ruling, dismissing claims that it was in any way influenced by political factors.

One experienced Dublin barrister said that while each of the five judges would have had some kind of political association at some stage in their careers, it would be quite

wrong to conclude that their decisions were weighed. Uppermost in the judges' minds in reaching their decision, he believed, was the overriding need to defend an individual's rights under Ireland's written constitution.

Chief Justice Thomas Finlay was MP for the present Opposition Fianna Fáil party in the mid-1950s. Colleagues describe him as "very solid" — a no-nonsense conservative with a tendency towards the establishment and with a record of achievement as an advocate before being named a High Court judge in 1971.

Chief Justice Finlay defended Captain James Kelly in the sensational arms trial of 1970 when Kelly

was among four people, including Mr Charles Haughey, now Prime Minister, cleared on charges connected with gun-running for the IRA.

He represented the Irish Government at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in January 1978 when Britain was found guilty of inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners in Northern Ireland. In 1988, he ordered the extradition of Robert Russell who, like Dermot Finucane and James Pinn, escaped from the Maze in September 1983.

Mr Justice Brian Walsh is regarded as one of Ireland's leading liberals in the judiciary. He was the

youngest Supreme Court judge at his appointment in 1961. A keen golfer, he has pioneered the establishment of many constitutional rights. He is to retire next week.

Mr Justice Anthony Hederman was attorney-general between 1977 and 1981. Lawyers regard him as possessing a "fiercely independent" legal brain. He led an extensive "heavyweight" legal practice before being appointed to the bench.

Mr Justice Hederman is a supporter of Mr Haughey's Fianna Fáil party and was at one time its honorary treasurer. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1981 on the advice of the then Haughey government. Mr Justice

Frank Griffin, who took a slightly different view to that of his four colleagues on the decision not to follow a precedent set in an earlier extradition case, was one of the judges who approved the extradition of Dominic McGlinchey in 1983 — the first terrorist to be extradited to Ulster. Mr Justice Griffin has set in most of Ireland's milestone cases in recent years including those deciding on marital privacy and homosexuality.

Mr Justice Niall McCarthy led the legal team defending Mr Haughey during the arms trial. He is considered a formidable intellect with a passionate sense of justice.

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Harmful pay round ahead as unions try for 10%-plus

By Kevin Eason

Britain could face a summer of industrial discontent as unions representing 200,000 key workers start a new round of pay campaigns.

Three groups — railmen, power workers and telecom managers — are pressing demands which seek to emulate the 10.2 per cent wage deal for Ford's 32,000 manual staff settled in January. The Government feared then it would spark a pay round of difficult negotiations.

However, union leaders said last night that it was inflation, higher mortgage repayments and the poll tax which were fuelling their claims.

The most damaging action could be in the railways, where leaders of 100,000 workers rejected the 8 per cent offer from British Rail, saying that it was not close enough to their demands for "substantial" rises, probably near to the Ford deal.

Nearly 76,000 power workers are to be balloted on strike action after their pay offer was raised to 8.5 per cent. They could be in dispute early next month.

About 29,000 junior and middle managers at British Telecom have voted for a campaign of one-day strikes to try to force the company to

scrap plans for wide-ranging pay restructuring and the lack of a pay offer.

Rail unions will study the terms of their offer over the next two days, but already it seems the industry could face strikes similar to last year's.

Mr Richard Rosser, general secretary of the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association, said after the talks in London: "The 8 per cent offer from the British Rail Board is hardly one to excite and once again is below the level of the fare increases the Government and the BRB feel justified in inflicting on the travelling public last month."

Meanwhile, negotiators have asked the executive of the EETPU electrical union to start balloting its 40,000 members in the electricity industry on industrial action. Unions representing another 30,000 workers are expected to follow.

Ambulance crews in London were again threatening industrial action after a row over money paid during the dispute. Mr Stewart Barber, a National Union of Public Employees official, said managers claimed some crews were overpaid by up to £500 while suspended. Talks between the two sides broke down yesterday.

Initiative to revive rural England



Mr Mark Boddington, furniture craftsman, at work in the village of Aldford, Cheshire, one of the rural enterprises launched by Business in the Community's Rural Enterprise Target Team.

The chairman, the Duke of Westminster, said yesterday that an estimated 500,000 redundant agricultural buildings could be imaginatively used as new business premises (Charles Knevitt writes). They could be the key to the future viability of rural communities in Britain.

"The benefits of conversions of this kind, not only to the

owner, but to the community, are many. Both landowners and farmers are increasingly having to look at other sources of revenue and here is a means of deriving a new income by converting a wasting asset into a working asset," the Duke said when he launched a video and handbook aimed at rural land holders in London.

The duke said that new and growing businesses would gain access to reasonably-priced accommodation and local communities would benefit from increased employment opportunities.

Last year, 14,000 jobs were

lost in agriculture, he said. The rural population, which comprised 20 per cent of the population in Britain, and which included many elderly people, could be kept alive by preventing the drift away of young people to cities through creating businesses opportunities in the countryside.

At Eaton Hall, Cheshire, his own estate, a redundant school, now comprises the offices of thriving civil engineering business, a traditional square of former agricultural buildings houses a firm of architects, and a substantial cowshed is being

turned into offices for a firm of quantity surveyors.

Also on his estate are offices and manufacturing businesses, which contribute to a total of 18 new firms employing almost 140 staff. All of this has been created in a conservation area and all the buildings are listed either Grade I or Grade II.

We should "build on the past in creating the future".

Details of the Changing Spaces initiative are obtainable from: Business in the Community, 227a City Road, London EC1V 1LX. Telephone 01-253 3716.

True costs of poll tax for poor 'are hidden'

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

The Government was accused last night of hiding the true costs of the community charge for the poorest sections of society.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, predicted that nearly all the 4,600,000 people receiving income support payments will be worse off under the new tax.

Some couples, he said, would lose more than £160 a year because of the gap between income support payments and rebates under the poll tax. The only exception would be residents of the London borough of Wandsworth and single adults in Montgomeryshire.

Mr Meacher accused the Government of a series of "fiddles" by refusing to compensate fully local authorities which have set their poll tax above the target set.

"Labour has argued that people on the poverty line should not be treated as pawns in the Government's political

battles with local government of any party."

He said: "The steady extortion of money from the poorest in society to subsidize the cost of the poll tax is the most repulsive aspect of this repulsive tax."

"Not only has the Government broken its word to claimants, by making even those in low-spending authorities pay, but the amounts involved are massive for families who are trying to survive on a few pounds a week."

● The London borough of Brent, in north-west London, and a number of other councils, have gambled heavily on the outcome of further legal action in the Hammersmith swaps case in a desperate effort to keep their poll tax levels down (David Walker writes).

Brent's poll tax, £498 a head, would have been nearly £180 higher if the Labour-controlled council had maintained the fund it had set up to cover obligations to financial

institutions incurred in debt swap deals. The Court of Appeal ruled recently that the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham acted illegally in amassing a huge portfolio of debt swap deals but that such deals could be legal if they were part of a council's financial house-keeping rather than a deliberate attempt to play the markets.

The District Auditor is considering an appeal to the House of Lords and until the Hammersmith case is over it is unclear whether other councils acted within their legal powers in swaps deals.

It is understood that Brent has outstanding obligations totalling £33 million which might have to be repaid if the courts finally ruled debt swap deals were legal. It sought the advice of lawyers on whether it needs to cover this amount in its budget for 1990-91 and decided against. If debt swaps are legal, poll tax payers in 1991 will have to cover the outstanding amounts.

Exemption challenge to tax

Three government departments have been called on to mount a legal challenge to a Cornish pensioner who has become a millionaire with a scheme to help people beat the poll tax (Michael Horsnell writes).

Mr Fred Trull, aged 65, claims that under a Royal Charter granted by Henry VI in 1508, a tin miner or anyone with a financial stake in a Cornish tin mine is not liable for English tolls and taxes. The

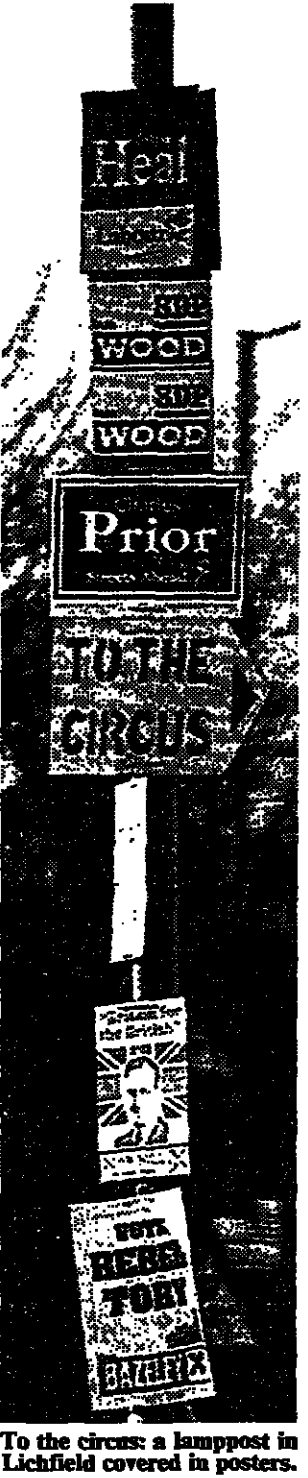
result has been a flood of applications for shares in his mining concern, the dormant West Wheal Towan Tin Mine Cost Book Company.

So far, over 1,250,000 applications have been received from potential tinnies rushing to pay £1 per share plus 50p for administration.

Yesterday, the Department of Trade and Industry was planning to seek a High Court injunction to stop Mr Trull, claiming that his company is

not registered under the Companies Act 1985 and that he is not a person authorized under the Financial Services Act 1986 to conduct investment business.

Home Office lawyers emphasize the sovereignty of Parliament, and a spokesman for the Department of the Environment commented: "We have published our list of community charge exemptions and Cornish tin miners are not on it."



To the circus: a lamp post in Lichfield covered in posters.

Mid-Staffordshire by-election

Heseltine in campaign bid to woo Tory voters

By Richard Ford

A Labour victory in the mid-Staffordshire by-election would signal to the world that Britain had lost its nerve, Mr Michael Heseltine told a packed meeting of Conservative Party workers last night.

Mr Heseltine, who received a rapturous reception, said that if Labour won, the signal to the world would be that Britain had given up the battle to make itself world competitive.

"The greater the prospect of a Labour government, the less people expect government to keep its nerve," he said.

Mr Heseltine, drafted into the constituency to help Tories hold a seat they are in danger of losing, said voting in the constituency would show that Britain would triumph in its search for free enterprise and prosperity.

The two leading candidates in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election were able to reach tacit agreement on one issue yesterday. Each was unwilling to draw attention to the findings of the latest local opinion poll giving Labour an increased lead of 12 points.

The poll, in the *Birmingham Post*, showed that, in one week, Labour had increased its lead by one point to 50, the Conservatives had dropped three points to 38, the Greens and the Social Democrats had stayed on four points each, the Liberal Democrats had increased one point to three, with the Independents on one.

Labour's lead would have begun to erode. In an attempt to split the opposition vote, Conservative Party officials are talking up the prospects of the Liberal Democrats.

Showing unusual interest in a revival of the third party in British politics, the Conservatives claimed to detect growing support for the party, muttering in sorrow at the absence of any supporters of Mr Paddy Ashdown who could help speed the recovery of the Liberal Democrats.

"I'm beginning to realize seven days is a long time in politics," Mr Charles Prior,

Labour has moved 21 points ahead of the Conservatives, its biggest lead for 20 years, according to an ICM poll for *The Guardian*. Labour scored 52 per cent (up one) and the Conservatives 31 per cent (down 5).

The Conservative candidate, said, adapting Mr Harold Wilson's famous phrase.

"This opinion poll figure does not mirror what is happening on the doorstep. People are registering what an important by-election it is and they want to send a clear sign to the rest of Europe and the rest of the country that mid-Staffordshire is not moving for Labour. I'm staggered by the opinion poll."

As the Conservatives focused their attack on Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, Mr Prior said the first week of the campaign had been dominated by "disenchantment" with the poll tax. However, he remained si-

lent on the arrival of Mr Heseltine in the constituency, which could put the issue of the Conservative Party leadership on the agenda. Mr Prior said anti-poll tax protesters in Rugby last night should have directed their protest to Cannock, the seat of the council that set the charge.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, returned to the real target, alleging that Mrs Heal had taken a "Trotskyist vow of silence" on Labour policies throughout the campaign.

Labour was clearly ready for the attack and for once their candidate moved away from a prepared script to answer "that she was neither excited or over-despondent" about the opinion poll findings.

She said Mr Ashdown had been offensive to many women in the constituency by accusing her of being a "Barbie woman". She said: "There is no way if I had been a 48-year-old man they would have made those extremely chauvinistic remarks."

Canvassing in Handsaker, Mrs Heal gave detailed explanations of Labour's proposals to replace the poll tax. Her opposition to hanging had a woman thinking of switching her vote. "If you don't ask the questions you don't know where they stand," the woman said. "I'm going to tell you who is going to win and it's that lady there," she said, pointing at Mrs Heal.

1987 general election: J Heddle (C) 28,644; C St Hill (Lab) 13,990; T Jones (L/Air) 13,114; J Healey (Independent C) 836. Cons majority 14,654.

Mates is backed over PR link

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East and chairman of the Commons defence select committee, won the backing of the committee yesterday after disclosures about his links with a company lobbying for defence contracts.

Mr Mates was called to justify his business interests to the committee after a complaint by Mr Dick Douglas, Labour MP for Dumfries and Galloway and a fellow committee member.

In a closed session yesterday Mr Douglas challenged Mr Mates' links with SGL Defence, part of the PR firm SGL communications. The company advises defence equipment manufacturers on how best to promote their products to the Ministry of Defence.

When Mr Mates received backing from the majority of the committee, Mr Douglas walked out.

After the meeting Mr Douglas said: "I made indecently clear to the defence committee that there is no way I would be party to a committee with Mr Mates in the chair. But I have not resigned from the committee."

A spokesman for Mr Mates said Mr Douglas's complaint was unanimously rejected by all members of the committee. However, the committee did agree to ask the Commons select committee on members' interests to clarify the rules governing the declaration of interests by select committee members and chairmen.

The members' interests committee is already investigating ways of tightening the rules on the register of members' business interests.

The SGL company brochure lists Mr Mates as a director. However, it has been emphasized that he is not a director, but a "consultant".

Mr Mates has insisted throughout that there was no conflict of interests between his consultancy and his post as chairman of the committee.

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Elderly face eviction over low income support, charity says

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Elderly people risk being evicted from residential homes this month as a result of the Government's failure to match income support levels to the charges levied by home owners, Age Concern said yesterday.

After the Government's defeat in the House of Commons on Tuesday night, the charity is now one of many groups urging ministers to act swiftly to prevent "a critical situation becoming a crisis".

Miss Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern, said yesterday that

hundreds of elderly people were now facing a hopeless situation having exhausted all possible sources of finance.

The organization has received many letters from the elderly and their families saying that they risk being evicted from private homes unless they can meet the bills. Owners have told relatives that it is up to them to make up the difference.

In a few cases residents have been moved to less suitable local authority accommodation.

At least one home in Maidstone, Kent, has told residents that they will have to leave by Tuesday if

they cannot pay the charges, Miss Greengross said. "We are expecting similar cases in the next few weeks," she said.

The dispute in the Commons reflects growing concern from both private home owners and groups representing residents over the last 12 months. Although new laws under the community health reforms will protect people going into residential homes in the future — local authorities will now have a responsibility to negotiate fees — they do not cover those already in homes.

The Government has no commitment to keeping income sup-

port in line with inflation, but residential home charges have risen far more than that rate.

The owners of residential homes say they risk going out of business if they keep charges down to the maximum levels which the Government has set for various groups of residential clients. They claim they cannot provide adequate care within these limits.

Last night the Independent Hospital's Association, which represents a number of homes, said it had identified a shortfall of £100 per week for a patient on income support receiving care in a nursing home. "We will be looking to

ministers to make up the difference in an increase of income support limits," it said.

A study by the association showed that operating costs for each resident in a small nursing home was £248 a week — £293 when depreciation and interest payments were added.

The Government has set a weekly limit of £140 for each person in residential homes and £190 for those in nursing homes. Elderly people who are very dependent are entitled to £155 and up to £23 extra is paid to residents in London homes. However, a recent report from the all-party social

services select committee suggested that the average shortfall for elderly people in homes was £30.

The National Care Homes Association has estimated that it costs a pensioner £170 a week for residential care, and a survey found that income support could only meet the fees in seven out of 132 private and voluntary homes in London. Figures from the Department of Social Security show that 176,000 people now receive income support in private residential and nursing homes, although there are no figures on how many homes charge over the limits.

Leading article, page 13

City fraud trial

Brokers swindled fortune from 'oik' clients, court told

By Robin Young

Four City brokers cheated investors they called "oiks" of millions of pounds, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Some clients of the broking company DPR Futures lost fortunes running into six figures, while the directors of the company lived a life of luxury, it was alleged.

Two directors, Andrew Page, aged 31, and David Rycott, 25, voted themselves annual salaries of just under £1 million. Another, Marcus Deller, aged 28, left the company within a year with a golden handshake of £500,000.

Mr Edmund Lawson, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury: "This case involves the ruthless and dishonest exploitation by these defendants of investors in the futures market. It is a case of depriving people, rich and not so rich, of their money by deceit, exaggeration, and instantly forgettable half truths."

He said: "They created a mirage of expertise, potential profit, and a selfless desire to serve the interests of their clients. When the mists of these representations blew away and the reality became clear, nearly all the clients taken in lost some or all of their money."

Deller, of Fulham, west London, David Rycott, of Wokingham, Surrey, his brother Ian Rycott, of Battersea, south London, and Andrew Page, of Tadworth, Surrey, all denied conspiracy to obtain property by deception, conspiracy to defraud, and fraudulent trading.

Mr Lawson said that investors in DPR stood at least a 60 per cent chance of losing at least three-quarters of their money. He told the jury, who will be following the case with

the aid of six computer terminals and a glossary of City jargon, that City fraudsters were no different from common conmen.

"A cheat is still a cheat no matter how he dresses up his business. A white-collar swindler is as subject to the law as a five-card trick conman."

The company, Mr Lawson said, had appointed telephone salesmen to persuade members of the public to part with their money. They advertised with the slogan "Opportunity Unlimited" and encouraged investors to hand over their savings.

The company took a substantial commission "up front" claiming they were taking on an enormous risk. In fact, the directors, ensured that there could be no risk to the company whatsoever, the court was told.

Mr Lawson said: "There could only be one winner. That winner was DPR."

The accused were unconcerned from whom they got the money, provided they got it — whether it was £100,000 or more from a successful businessman or £1,500 life savings from a pensioner, he said.

Mr Rycott, Mr Lawson alleged, had told staff: "Any one stupid enough to send anyone money on the strength of a telephone call deserves to lose it." He is also alleged to have told account executives: "Never mind whether they win or lose, just keep the money coming in."

One member of staff, speaking about a client, commented: "Go easy. Make him some money, then get the bastard for £100,000. He is very smart."

Another customer, a retired primary school headmaster who lost £1,500, was described

by a company salesman as "a soft old man who I don't think will survive any serious churning".

A comment written on a form concerning another investor said: "Nice chap, could be big, big loser," Mr Lawson told the jury.

Staff were selected and promoted according to their ability to talk clients into parting with their money, the court was told. One such accounts executive earned £80,000 commission in seven months. He was also given a Porsche car which had been pictured in DPR's literature for investors.

Underneath the picture of the car were the words: "Rewards can be greater and faster than any other form of financial speculation".

Investors would be encouraged to part with their money immediately in order to cash in on good investments. Salesmen often persuaded clients to send the cash by courier or telegraphic bank transfer. The company instructed their brokers to close any contract as soon as it made a profit of 30 per cent.

This enabled them to go back to the client and persuade him to take out another contract involving more commission, it was alleged.

A contract would also be closed as soon as the initial investment had been lost. That meant that DPR was not at risk in any way, though it demanded large payments of commission in advance on the claim that it was running enormous risks itself.

The company's activities represented the dishonest face of the City of London where, despite a few notorious exceptions, there was still a reputation founded upon trust, Mr Lawson said.

The trial continues today.

Smokers take it all lying down

By Robin Young and Nigel Williamson

Almost half the nation's smokers made an earnest endeavour to give up smoking yesterday, though some found they could not face the effort without the help of a cigarette.

It was the seventh annual "No Smoking Day", and the organizers were hopeful that they had improved on last year's results, when an estimated 2.7 million smokers gave up for the day and 50,000 were able to do so for good.

As in previous years, the Health Education Authority, the anti-smoking lobby group ASH, the British Heart Foundation and other health organizations set up temporary shops in Covent Garden with a variety of incentives intended to curb other people's smoking.

There were Caribbean holidays to be won by those who would take the pledge. Cigarette puffers were offered dummy cigarettes or a polythene bag of ash and cigarette butts to sniff, while Geest, the fruit importers, were offering to swap a banana for a cigarette.

Suzanne Dando, the television personality and former gymnast, let people stroke her dog if they did not smoke, while professional counsellors were on hand to give people advice on how to stop smoking, and to administer carbon monoxide tests as one form of persuasion.

One book being distributed, entitled *50 Ways to Stop Smoking*, included among its helpful suggestions resorting to acupuncture, sucking Fisherman's Friends non-stop for two months, taking up knitting, and concentrating on deep breathing exercises.

Supporters of Forest, the smokers' rights group, hit back by picketing the headquarters of National No Smoking Day's principal sponsors in protest.

It was, though, a day on which the anti-smoking lobby made tangible advances. Smoking was banned from yesterday on Chesterfield's 130 public buses and at meetings of Cambridge council.

There appeared to be fewer advances, tangible or otherwise, at Westminster where



Mr Paul McKenna, a hypnotist, trying to help smokers kick the habit through hypnosis at a session in the Cockney Music Hall on Tottenham Court Road, central London, yesterday.

the smoking room set aside for MPs and peers was not noticeably less busy than usual.

But then smoking at Westminster is not restricted to the smoking room. In fact, it is only the chambers of the two Houses themselves which are entirely smoke-free zones.

Nevertheless, "No Smoking Day" could claim at least one conspicuous success around Westminster with the absence

of one of the Government's foremost polluters of the air, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who is on a trade mission to eastern Europe, and there, no doubt, enjoying a quiet puff.

The Cabinet's other noted smoker, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was up all night for the NHS Bill, and coffee and cigarettes

are obligatory to get through such marathon sessions.

However, as Westminster etiquette meant that after the all-night sitting, Wednesday did not formally start until 2.30pm, MPs could happily puff away all morning, safe in the knowledge that it was not "No Smoking Day" at all but still, within the precincts of Westminster at least, the day before.

Teacher sues over corridor collision

An art teacher who gave up her job after she was injured by boys running in a corridor began a High Court claim for damages yesterday (Michael Horsnell writes).

Miss Kate Edge, of West Kensington, claims the Inner London Education Authority is responsible for the accident at St George's Roman Catholic Secondary School, Maida Vale, north London, in October 1987. If liability is proved, another hearing will assess compensation.

As the form mistress rounded the corner of a corridor a gang of about 25 boys aged 13 and 14 came running towards her. "She was pushed to the ground, kicked and trampled on," Mr John Lyons, her counsel, told Judge White.

Miss Edge was critical of "the lack of co-operation in reinforcing school rules".

Ilea, which is responsible for the school, denies negligence and breach of statutory duty. The case continues.

● A Home Counties comprehensive school is to offer its pupils a full cooked breakfast in an effort to keep them alert throughout the school day and improve behaviour in the classroom (Douglas Broom writes).

Senior staff at Park House School, Newbury, Berkshire, have written to parents inviting them to send their children early to school for a meal of sausage, bacon and eggs.

The meal, which costs 50p a head, will be served by school catering staff in the dining hall at 8.30am.

● A scheme to provide 250 flats and houses for teachers in London was approved yesterday by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

PORTFOLIO

There were no winners of yesterday's £5,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. Today's prize money will be £8,000.

Surrogacy 'should be a last resort' for infertile couples

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Surrogacy arrangements should be considered only as a last resort to help infertile couples have a baby, the British Medical Association (BMA) said yesterday.

In a report containing a list of guidelines, the association offers advice to doctors and their patients, but warns of the many potential problems surrogacy poses for the child, the surrogate mother, and commissioning parents.

The report is the result of an investigation lasting almost two years by a BMA working party into the legal, ethical and social issues surrounding surrogacy.

In 1987, the association's annual representative adopted a motion that doctors should not participate in any surrogacy arrangements until there were appropriate ethical safeguards and controls.

The working party has concluded that it would not be possible or desirable to prevent the involvement of doctors, especially as the Government does not intend to make the practice illegal.

It points out, however, that surrogacy arrangements are

unlawful in law, and says doctors would not be acting unethically if they refused to take part in such a procedure. "Surrogacy represents many difficult problems. Some practitioners regard these as so great that they would not wish to take part in the initiation of any surrogate pregnancy," the report says.

"If they take that view, it would not be unethical for them to refuse... Their only ethical obligation is to refer the patient to someone else."

The report adds: "Surrogacy should only be considered as a last resort where the commissioning couple suffers from infertility due to a medically recognized disorder, and where all the other appropriate means for enabling them to have a child have been tried, and have failed."

Among the potential problems arising from surrogacy are that the surrogate mother

might decide to keep the child; the commissioning parents might refuse to take it, if, for example, it was born with a handicap; the surrogate mother could suffer a severe reaction similar to bereavement after giving away the child; and her other children might suffer severe disturbances when a newly arrived sibling was given away.

"It would be unethical for a practitioner to take part in the initiation of a surrogate pregnancy if he or she had not first satisfied himself that the level of all the foreseeable risks was acceptable to all the parties involved," the guidelines say.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, secretary of the working party, said infertility centres providing in-vitro fertilization (IVF) were being asked to help in surrogate births but were uncertain about how they should respond. The guidelines could help them to deal with patients' requests. She said a condition of surrogacy arrangements should be that the child was legally adopted.

In a case recently publicized, a commissioning couple are fighting in court to be seen as the legal parents of twins born to a surrogate mother without going through the process of adoption.

They claim that they are the genetic parents of the children, because the pregnancies resulted from IVF treatment in which the husband's sperm was used to fertilize the wife's eggs. The embryos were then implanted in the surrogate mother. Dr Nathanson said that if the Human Embryology and Fertilization Bill, now before the House of Commons, became law, such a claim would fail.

Commercial surrogacy agencies were outlawed in Britain in 1985, but the BMA guidelines say that it is not illegal for a surrogate mother to be paid by a commissioning couple.

The report is to be submitted to the BMA's annual representative meeting in Bournemouth in June. If accepted, it then becomes BMA policy.

The report is to be submitted to the BMA's annual representative meeting in Bournemouth in June. If accepted, it then becomes BMA policy.

Landmark euthanasia case may not go on

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

What could have been a test-case on "mercy-killing" by doctors may be abandoned because the Crown Prosecution Service is considering withdrawing charges against a hospital doctor accused of murdering a terminally-ill patient.

Dr Thomas Ludwig, aged 28, will appear at the Central Criminal Court today accused of the "mercy-killing" of a cancer patient, Mr Roy Spratley.

The policy of the British Medical Association is that "active euthanasia" should remain a crime. However, it says that in clinical practice, there are "many cases where it is right that a doctor should accede to a request not to prolong the life of a patient".

The doctor, formerly senior house officer at Minster Ward at Battle Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, appeared before magistrates in the town early last year charged with the murder of Mr Spratley, a lorry driver who lived at Patten Ash Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Dr Ludwig's solicitor successfully applied for reporting restrictions on the case to be lifted at one of his appearances before Reading magistrates.

Mr Robert Summering, for the defence, told the court in July last year that Dr Ludwig was a young doctor of "exemplary character". "This is a case which involves very difficult moral and ethical problems as to the treatment of the terminally ill and what is proper to do to relieve the pain, fear and suffering."

The murder charge was successfully committed to Reading Crown Court, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided to remit the case to the Central Criminal Court because of its significance.

The Guinness trial

Director 'knew nothing' of success fee payout

By Paul Wilkinson

A leading member of the Guinness family described yesterday how he had stood by Ernest Saunders, the company's former chairman, right until the last moment.

Mr Jonathan Guinness, a merchant banker and a non-executive director of the brewing group from 1961 to 1988, told the Guinness trial at Southwark Crown Court in London that he believed Mr Saunders had been a good choice for the company when he joined in 1981.

He said the company was under siege at the time and added: "I had the highest regard for his integrity."

He said that he changed allegiance only when it was obvious the rest of the executive directors thought Mr Saunders should go.

That was at a board meeting on January 14, 1987, six weeks after the Department of Trade and Industry began an investigation into the Guinness takeover of Distillers, the Scottish drinks group.

"The important thing was keeping the organization together," he said. "When the executive directors switched I decided to change."

The court has already been told that the board meeting reversed a decision to help Mr Saunders prepare his case for the DTI investigation and to continue his salary.

Mr Saunders and three others deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act arising out of the takeover in 1986.

With him in court are Gerald Ronson, the chairman of the Heron International group of companies, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Jack Lyons, the financier. Cross-examined by Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, counsel for Mr Saunders, Mr Guinness agreed that his "prime

motivating force" was the best interests of the company.

He agreed that Mr Saunders' arrival at Guinness had "lightened the atmosphere" and had created a new openness on the board.

He was the best managing director since the 1950s; a man of charm, moderation, and reasonableness who was easy to talk to and ready and willing to discuss any points Mr Guinness might raise.

Earlier Mr Guinness had said he was not fully informed about the takeover but did not expect to be so in his position.

"I felt no apprehension," he said. He had originally opposed the takeover, feeling it was

● A man of charm, moderation and reasonableness ●

wrong to attempt a takeover of a larger company.

He was also concerned that Guinness should not move into the spirits business, because "there was a campaign against spirits on public grounds".

He knew nothing about indemnities to supporters who bought Guinness shares to boost their value during the takeover or the payment of success fees to outside helpers.

"I would have regarded that as improper," he said.

He agreed he had heard of one of the share purchases by an Austrian bank, Zentralparkasse und Commercialbank, from Vienna.

He was a friend of the bank's London representative, Mr Horst Tiefenthaler, whom he met at a party and was told that his bank was buying shares in the company. He had no idea it was being done improperly.

"I was interested in what was happening. It was a chance window into the way things worked."

"I had no apprehension just considerable interest," he said.

Mr Guinness said he had also opposed an investment by Guinness in a securities firm run by Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced American arbitrator, convicted in the US for insider dealing.

He said that he believed the investment was of "doubtful relevance" to the main business interests of Guinness.

His attempt to discuss it with Mr Saunders was referred to another director, the American lawyer, Mr Thomas Ward, who showed him the paper work on the deal.

"I was not satisfied at all. It seemed to me most of the profits would go to Boesky, but I was provisionally reassured, as it seemed likely it would be more successful than not. At the time I had very great respect for Mr Saunders."

Lord Boyd of Merton, former deputy chairman of Guinness, told the jury Mr Saunders kept members of the board in the dark over the Distillers takeover.

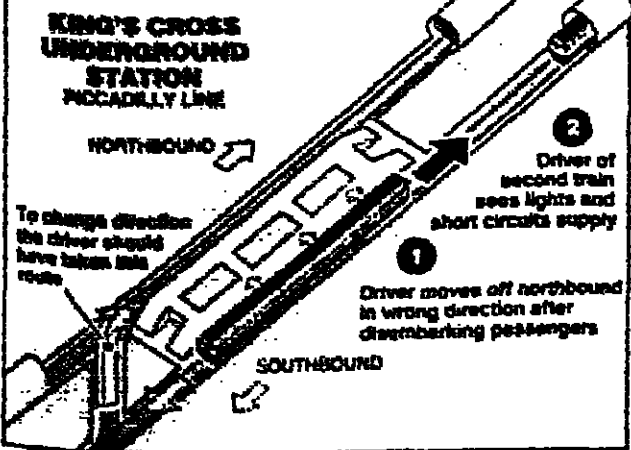
Lord Boyd, who owned or controlled more than 2,500,000 Guinness shares, said Mr Saunders had not kept him informed of developments over the takeover and had missed meetings, including at least one board meeting and a series of company presentations and briefings with the press.

Lord Boyd resigned on April 25, 1986, because he felt there was no role for him in a larger company, which would have ended what had been a family brewing business.

The hearing continues today.

Quick-thinking train driver averted head-on collision on Piccadilly line

By Michael Dynes Transport Correspondent



Hundreds of London Underground commuters narrowly escaped disaster after two rush-hour trains managed to avoid a head-on collision near King's Cross station, it was disclosed yesterday.

The near miss took place on the Piccadilly Line at 6pm on Monday after a driver failed to transfer his train from the southbound to the northbound line, leaving the train heading in the right direction on the wrong track — towards an oncoming train packed with commuters.

Disaster was averted after Mr John Robson, the driver of the second train, saw the approaching headlights of the other train and reached out of his cab window to connect two low-voltage cables on the tunnel wall, short-circuiting the electrical supply of both trains.

Mr Robson said: "I just saw headlights coming round the corner and all I could think to do was to

open the cab door and pull the emergency wires to bring him to a halt. Any other driver would have acted in the same way. I'm just glad not to be dead."

Simultaneously, the other driver realized his mistake and applied the emergency brakes which, along with the loss of power, brought the empty northbound train to a halt 400 feet away from Mr Robson's packed commuter train.

London Underground said the Heathrow-bound train had been instructed beforehand to offload its passengers at King's Cross and return to Cockfosters where there was a shortage of rolling stock. He should have driven his train from the platform to a point immediately south of the station to a cross-over line between the north and southbound tracks and then changed to the rear driving cab before switching lines.

London Underground said: "The driver must have thought the cross-over line was to the north of King's Cross, because he changed driving cabs in the

station and then set off towards his destination. If the drivers had not been paying attention the trains could have collided."

A spokesman said the mistake happened because of a "loophole" in the Underground's signalling system. "It has never been envisaged that such a wrong move could be made by a train driver," he said, before acknowledging that a similar error had occurred at least once in 1988 at Hyde Park Corner.

An inquiry into the incident has been set up, and a crash programme carried out to install red lights at the King's Cross cross-over and other similar junctions to prevent any recurrence.

London Underground said both drivers had acted quickly and were a credit to their training. Praising Mr Robson, London Underground said: "His train was stationary at the time because the signals were showing that another train was in front of him. He didn't know that it was heading straight for him until he saw the lights."



Mr Robson: "Other drivers would have done the same."

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Complaints authority's new broom

Erring police may face cash penalty after retirement

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Tough measures may be needed to close the loopholes which allow police officers to escape disciplinary investigation by retiring unscathed on ill-health grounds and full pension, Judge Petre, the chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, said yesterday.

Speaking after the first six months in his job, the judge also defended the authority, challenged the idea that an independent group, instead of the police, might be created to investigate complaints, and disclosed that a debate was developing in Whitehall to find a way to allow civil actions to run parallel with investigations.

An officer can now avoid disciplinary hearings if doctors say he is unfit for duty. Judge Petre said a better test would be whether the man was unfit for the hearing, and that might be decided by independent medical advice rather than police medical officers or GPs.

It might also be possible to suspend an officer rather than let him retire, or, in a serious case, pursue an officer after his retirement and extract a financial penalty. The obvious area would be the pension but the judge would not be drawn further.

Judge Petre said the number of cases was small and the subject was complex. "I think it is wrong an officer should be able to avoid a disciplinary hearing. The whole topic requires much further consideration. The present situation is not entirely satisfactory."

The question of blocking loopholes is only one of a host of problems facing the authority. Judge Petre, a former judge at the Central Criminal Court, inherited an organization condemned last year by the Police Federation in a vote of no confidence.

Within months the authority was called into the West Midlands serious crime squad case and then became increasingly embroiled in the controversy over police conduct at Wapping.

A recent survey in north London showed that few members of the public knew the authority existed. Yet the public could turn to the authority for greater action, as some polls suggested confidence in the police was waning.

Judge Petre's predecessor, Sir Cecil Clothier, harried and fought for his corner often with controversy and acerbity.

The judge, who speaks with the care and pace once devoted to summing-up, may be more bullish and less scathing although the publication of the authority's report on Wapping last month has drawn criticism at Scotland Yard.

"It is my view," the judge said, "that the PCA has an important role to play and one that is necessary in a civilized society because of the inevitable tensions which may arise. Our role is to reassure



Judge Petre: "My aim is to establish credibility."

the public there is an independent civil body which oversees complaints.

Of the police he said: "We are a considerable asset to them because they are able in their turn to reassure the public that allegations are subject to independent scrutiny. It is our intention to gain the respect of the police without in any way compromising our independence."

The authority seems to see itself as some sort of referee but it is one whose role sometimes gets lost among the flurry of punches. "My main object is to establish our credibility. I think we have got a good story to tell. We are still in the learning process," the judge said.

The media latched on to cause célèbres but the bread and butter of the authority depended on minor cases, often heartfelt but trivial and covering something as simple as the use or non-use of the word "sir". Alleged assaults and incivility are the two biggest areas of complaint.

The rise of the cause célèbres has provoked calls for the police to be investigated by some breed of special outside investigator. Some senior officers say if the judge

does not improve public confidence the change will come.

Judge Petre said he did not want to enter into the debate but added: "No one has suggested a viable alternative to the present system. We feel this method of conducting investigations with strong independent oversight is a good one."

It was as effective as any system in any other jurisdiction. Alternative systems in the US had been tried and abandoned, and the ratio of cases proved in Britain was comparable to figures for the US and other countries with legal systems based on common law.

Nonetheless, an increasing number of serious complainants are going to law ignoring the authority. Judge Petre said it was not true that a mass of complainants were turning from the authority.

He accepted complainants were using the courts in lieu of a system which offered them nothing more than satisfaction, although the courts were slower than the authority. A civil action might take three to five years, whereas an inquiry by the authority would take far less time.

The authority has submitted a report to the Home Office on ways of allowing civil cases to go ahead alongside investigations. Other government departments are also putting in submissions.

The key point is that statements made by complainants can be used against them by the police, and that no copies of statements made by witnesses can be provided to the witnesses.

The question of the use of statements, the judge said, might be a complex issue involving considerable time and eventually new legislation. He felt that witnesses should have their statements.

During the rest of his three-year term of chairmanship the judge may well have cause for some of the attributes he inherits from a military family; his father was a much decorated major general. He says he was known as a tough judge but there is a clear sense of the individual in his view of the authority's task: whether that individual be the aggrieved member of the public or the unlucky policeman.

Police, he says, are becoming better trained in dealing with the public although many complainants had fastened on the fact they were victims of a "young" officer.

Whiz-kid's software has healthy future



A computer programme tailored for GPs to manage their practices has been copyrighted by David Bottom, a 17-year-old A level student, from Beedington, south London. He has shown the system to six doctors and won six orders. He believes the coming of budget-holding for GPs could make his fortune.

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Budget scheme interests half the GP practices

Over half the eligible GP practices in England have expressed an interest in becoming budget holders, one of the key health service reforms, the Government announced yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that 850 practices had so far registered an interest out of the 1,640 practices with over 9,000 patients on their lists who are eligible for the scheme.

Practices with fewer than 9,000 patients can take up the plan if they join with another practice and have adequate computer back-up. Each of the 850 practices will get £16,000 from this April to help them start up the scheme, a total bill of £13.6 million.

Practices which then decide to go ahead with approval from the regional health authority, would get £32,000 in

1991-1992 for extra management and administrative help.

However formal applications will not have to be submitted until after the NHS and Community Care Bill receives Royal Assent. Mr Clarke has already indicated that the Government will be unable to cope with more than a few hundred budget holders in the first phase of the reforms starting next April, so some practices may be weeded out.

The figures will nevertheless provide a welcome fillip for the Government which is facing mounting staff opposition to its other main reform, self-governing hospitals.

Mr Clarke described the response as an endorsement of the scheme's attractiveness.

"It shows that a significant number of GPs recognize the advantages of having more influence over the quality of hospital services and are looking forward to new opportunities to improve their practices in the interests of their patients," he said.

Some would become fund-holding from April 1, while "for others it would be more practical to join the scheme later".

The British Medical Association, which is strongly opposed to the plans, emphasized that a request for information was not the same as taking on board the Government's proposals. It said: "Once doctors fully under-

stand how this iniquitous scheme will affect their patients we would expect to see a substantial drop in the number of doctors interested."

Under the plan, "practice fund-holders" will be given annual budgets to cover the drugs they prescribe, practice staff and some hospital care.

The size of the budget will be up to individual negotiation but it is expected to be about £1 million for an average practice with 11,000 patients.

For the first time GPs will be able to shop around for hospital care and draw up contracts for elective surgery, out-patient appointments and diagnostic tests. Some practices will be able to choose to

carry out more minor surgery themselves.

Practices which make savings will be able to keep them to spend on staff or premises or add them to the following year's budget. Where practices overspend within the year on any aspect of their budget they will theoretically be expected to recoup it from other areas.

However Mr Clarke has already given an undertaking that where extra expense is justified GPs may be able to negotiate a mid-year increase with the region.

● The NHS chief executive Mr Duncan Nichol yesterday announced a drive to improve management.

An open learning course has been set up for junior and middle managers by the NHS Training Authority in conjunction with the Open University and the Institute of Health Services Management.

Mr Nichol said managers, doctors and nurses would need new skills to implement the NHS reforms.

Tribunal regulations 'unfair to patients'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Reformed procedures for making complaints about doctors are unfair to patients and should be withdrawn, the Council on Tribunals, an independent statutory watchdog on tribunal procedures, said yesterday.

It says the new regulations, due to come into force next month, would not stop undesirable practices which favour the doctor who faces a complaint. These had been observed by tribunal members at hearings of the Family Practitioner Service Committees, which hear complaints against dentists, pharmacists and opticians, as well as doctors.

The council points out that the hearings are meant to be in private and the way they are conducted ought to be fairly balanced between patient and doctor. But the new regulations permit doctors to be assisted or represented by other

doctors, while patients are barred from being represented by any lawyer, even if unpaid.

The new regulations also allow medical observers to be present but permit no observer to represent the interests of a patient; require the doctor's consent for consideration of any complaint that falls outside the stated time-limits; and do nothing to stop a member of the family practitioner committee involved from assisting or representing the doctor facing complaint.

Calling on the Government to withdraw the regulations, the council says it has repeatedly called for the strengthening of the present regulations.

● Opticians warned the Government yesterday not to reconsider introducing a two-tier eye test. Speakers at a symposium held by the Optical Services Audit Committee said it was essential that all tests gave a full eye examination to detect diseases. The committee, set up by the General

Optical Council, will report the findings to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health.

In more than 6 per cent of all eye examinations patients were referred for medical treatment, the British College of Optometrists said. A study at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, had shown that 47 per cent of ocular tumours were picked up by optometrists. However, the Association of British Dispensing Opticians called for an optional "refraction" test without a full examination which could be given by its members with an extra two-month training.

● A London GP has called for medical records to be protected from insurance companies and other commercial groups. Speaking at a conference on patients' access to medical records, Dr David Sloane said that under the new GP contract doctors would hold more sensitive information about people's lifestyles, which could be exploited.

Labour pledge on child care

By Douglas Broom

The Labour Party yesterday promised to abolish taxation on child care benefits for working mothers as part of a drive to improve provision for pre-school children.

Mr Paul Boateng, one of the party's Treasury spokesmen, said it was "absurd and obscene" that working mothers were paying tax on workplace nurseries and childcare vouchers "at double the rate paid on a company car".

In addition to exempting child care benefits from tax, Labour also announced plans to give local authorities increased powers to license nannies, child minders and playgroup leaders.

The party promised in a policy document, *The Best Start*, that a Labour government would "aim to extend the right of a place in nursery education to all three and four-year-olds whose parents wish it."

Mrs Hilary Armstrong, the party's spokeswoman on nursery education, said Labour had stopped short of an outright commitment to nursery education for all because it would be unrealistic to promise what might not be achieved.

Under Labour's plans every local authority would be re-

quired to draw up a development plan involving state nurseries, workplace child care, child minders, nannies and playgroups to ensure that all children under five had access to some kind of education and care.

Mrs Armstrong said that Britain was falling far behind its European competitors in the provision of pre-school facilities: only 44 per cent of three and four-year-olds were provided for compared with 95 per cent in France and Belgium.

Mr Boateng said the key to success was a flexible system enabling women to place their children in child care or education, according to their needs.

● Tax concessions for working mothers could lead to a "Doomsday scenario" with a working population too small to support the elderly, a Tory pressure group, said yesterday.

Such a move would cause the birthrate to fall further, leading to a worsening skill shortage. More mothers would then be encouraged into the workforce, accelerating the trend, the Conservative Family Campaign said. It also predicted that the move would lead to more divorces.

Children's interests come first, says Mackay

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The present divorce laws, which allow couples to split up quickly without regard for the needs of their children, were forcefully criticized by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, yesterday.

Such laws allowed "husbands and wives to obtain a quick divorce by dredging up recriminations to show that the other party has been at fault", he said.

"I have to ask, except in the most gross cases, should bad behaviour by one partner give the other the right to a divorce without regard to the consequences, especially for the children?"

"Should it be possible to get a divorce by pointing an accusing finger at your partner without first facing up to the consequences, and if they do not deter you, making the necessary arrangements to deal with them?"

Lord Mackay's comments, to a conference in London of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, are a clear signal that he favours a reform of the divorce laws to take the needs of children into account.

He said: "Would not the prospects of saving marriages and of conciliation be improved if divorce were regu-

lated by a law which made the adults look to the consequences of a family-breakdown rather than to the alleged cause or excuse for it?"

In divorce law, as with other family law, the attention of adults needed to be turned away from asking whether the marriage was giving them what they wanted. Instead, what was needed was "a full recognition that they created the family, that they are responsible for it and that if there are children their in-

terests must prevail over those of their parents."

His speech comes as the Law Commission is drafting its final paper on a reform of the divorce laws, expected this summer. It is widely expected to remove the fault basis of divorce and make couples face up to the consequences of divorce, in the way Lord Mackay outlined yesterday.

Lord Mackay said the Government was embarked on a "major initiative to overhaul and improve the family justice system". Throughout the review, the guiding principle was that "the child came first".

It also recognized that parents and spouses must accept personal responsibility for themselves and their children, and that the law and the courts were a last resort in family disputes.

Lord Mackay rejected the creation of a separate Family Court along Australian lines. However, he said a number of the Government's initiatives

would adopt the "component parts" of a Family Court.

"What we are now doing is unpacking the suitcase labelled, perhaps misleadingly, 'family court', and reviewing its contents," he said.

A first step had been the Children Act 1989, a "historic advance", bringing together public and private child care law to form a coherent whole.

However, this was only the first stage in a "very major initiative" to overhaul and improve family justice.

The Government was reviewing a coherent family jurisdiction, properly organized support services, and more appropriate procedures.

Child maintenance was being urgently considered by the Government, he said. The Law Commission was preparing recommendations on divorce, domestic violence and rights to occupy the home.

At the same, Lord Mackay said his department and others were considering the role and organization of reconciliation in the event of family breakdown.

At the same time, a group of officials was looking at the arrangements for the support services of the courts, including guardians ad litem and welfare officers.

First Law Fair opens doors

More than 80 organizations, from the European Commission to the Crown Prosecution Service; from the Army Legal Corps to the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group, will be represented at the first national Law Fair which opens today.

The two-day event which starts at 12 noon at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, is expected to attract several thousand students and graduates seeking jobs.

The fair is organized by London University's careers advisory service, in association with the Law Society and *The Times*, as a response to the recruitment crisis being suffered by many law firms.

Miss Anne-Marie Martin, senior careers adviser with London University's careers advisory service, said there was a growing

demand for law and other graduates in the wake of the City's Big Bang and intense competition between law firms and other professions for students.

"Demographic evidence suggests that the competition to recruit high-calibre graduates will become even fiercer," she said. Recruitment problems are particularly hitting some of the regional and smaller organizations.

All sizes of law firm are hosting stands, from Linklaters with 100 vacancies for articled clerks in 1991-92 to smaller firms such as Courts and Co, a seven-partner practice with two vacancies.

The fair will include seminars on such topics as becoming a barrister or choosing articles.

The Law Fair: today noon to 7pm; tomorrow 10am to 4pm.

Pink diamond from the Mogul dynasty expected to fetch £1m



The Agra diamond, which has been at £1m.

The largest light pink diamond to be auctioned to date comes up at Christie's on June 20 with an estimate of £1 million.

Known as the Agra diamond, and measuring nearly one inch in diameter, it was once owned by Babur, the 16th century founder of the Mogul dynasty and conqueror of India.

Babur, whose name means "the Tiger", acquired the Agra diamond in 1526 from the family of the Rajah of Gwalior in exchange for their lives after their defeat in battle. He used to wear it in his turban.

By the same means, he also acquired the famous Koh-i-

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Noor diamond, which he gave to his son Humayun. It is now one of the more famous of the British crown jewels.

The Agra diamond, named after Babur's capital city, has had many owners, including the eccentric 19th-century collector, the Duke of Brunswick, being his single most expensive purchase when he bought it for 348,000 francs in 1844.

It weighed 41.75 carats until

the late 19th century, when it was cut down to 32.24 carats to eliminate inclusions. The present vendor, a private English collector, inherited it.

Agnew's, the London dealers, was in spending mood at Sotheby's sale of British paintings from 1500 to 1850 in London yesterday.

It paid £198,000 (four times estimate) for a Constable oil sketch showing a roseate river Stour at sunset, looking towards Dedham. It was one of many open air sketches completed near the artist's birthplace in 1808.

It also bought back a haunting Sir Joshua Reynolds portrait of a small boy which the

company bought and sold in the early 1900s.

The painting shows a chubby-faced George Augustus Herbert, later eleventh earl of Pembroke, standing in shadow, startled by a beam of light shining on his face. He had a colourful life ahead of him as Grand Tourist, MP and later ambassador to Vienna.

Agnew's paid £115,500 for it yesterday against an upper estimate of £80,000.

There was a record for Denis Dighton, when his vivid "Battle of Klissura" fetched £187,000, selling privately.

Dighton, a renowned military painter during the early 1800s, and like Byron a

great supporter of the Greeks against the Turks, first exhibited the painting, which shows both sides in ferocious, writhing combat.

The price was within estimate.

A painting of Edmund Keane playing Brutus was saved for the nation when the dealers Leggett Brothers bid £27,500 on behalf of the National Portrait Gallery. Dated 1819, it shows the actor in one of his greatest roles, solemnly posturing in his toga as a fellow senator weeps.

Originally commissioned by William Henry Whitbread of the brewing family, it is by James Northcote, RA.



Babur "the Tiger", fabled owner of the pink diamond.

Flight plans

Birmingham European Airways, based at Birmingham Airport, plans to double the number of passengers it carries over the next year to 250,000 after spending £10 million on five BAC 1-11 jets.

Taking leave

A powerful insect repellent that smells like peppermint has been found in oil in the leaves of *Dicranandra frutescens*, a rare and endangered mist plant from Florida.

Cold comfort

Mr Ray Taylor, aged 77, of Bridford, Nottinghamshire, escaped with singed eyebrows when, after lighting a candle to defrost his fridge, he set fire to it and blew up his kitchen.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

East Germans mourn an enforced loss of identity

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

Herr Konrad Weiss, of the East German opposition group *Democracy Now*, sounds a lament as the sequence of events which his organization helped catalyse moves at an unremitting pace — dictated by outsiders — towards Sunday's elections and on to reunification.

He declares: "I have lost my homeland. This grey, narrow, ugly land and yet a beautiful land too... has been pulled from under my feet. I am an immigrant in my own country."

As polling approaches, the chants of "Germany, one fatherland" and "We are one people" have faded from the streets of East Germany.

The flags with the symbol of the hammer and compass cut out to yield the West German version still hang from windows in the endless concrete apartment blocks of East Berlin's suburbs, but most tidy housewives have folded them away. They have got what they want. Reunification, prosperity and the Deutschmark are on the way.

East Germany's existence, forged in the ideological and military turmoil at

the end of the war, sustained by repression and nurtured by its guardian superpower, collapsed unceremoniously when external conditions and internal frustrations caused a meltdown at the heart of an unstable system.

But when Herr Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling, leader of the conservative German Social Union, said on the hustings this week he was "ashamed that the GDR still existed", he was booed by his conservative audience.

It was the kind of mistake that West German politicians habitually make when addressing East Germans on the subject of reunification. "Come to us," they say, "and we will relieve you of the last 40 years. In no time you will be just like us..." That it was made by a native intensified the outrage.

German identity is the product of a history of fragmentation, belated and crotchety unity, and the effects of fascism. It thrived best in exile. "Germany is divided, we are one part of her," Heinrich Heine wrote in Paris, while Thomas Mann was proclaiming in Princeton that where he was, so was German culture. During his exile in

Hamburg, Wolf Biermann, the dissident singer, still sang about East Germany after 14 years in the West. "You always think differently about the world if you have grown up in a land where two times two equals four is a state secret," he said.

Yet West German politicians tend to behave as if reunification was all over bar the redrawing of maps. Despite their desire to put the socialist experiment behind them, people do not like being told they have lived in vain for 40 years.

East Germans have worked, suffered and laughed together within the confines of a closed country. They took their holidays in the same Eastern European nations that were permitted them, recycling the permitted destinations. They learned the names of the Comintern in kindergarten, wore the blue and yellow of the Free German Youth when their Western contemporaries were starting to don brand-name jeans, and even the German that they spoke sounded old-fashioned compared with the Western equivalent.

That is all over now and most are truly relieved that their own children will have a different life. But the price

demanded, hurriedly and with little tact, by West Germany for the prize of reunification and prosperity appears to be the identity of the East.

The election strategy is being mapped out on computers imported from Bonn and fought out with the rival parties distributing free Coca-Cola and bananas.

East German politicians still seem uneasy about the combative style of their West German models. Their leaders have all emerged from years in the political underground, which in East Germany was a very cosy circle indeed. The bonds forged in opposition are proving stronger than the newly-knotted party ties with Bonn.

Herr Gregor Gysi of the reformed communist Party of Democratic Socialism was formerly a defence lawyer for dissidents. The brave and turbulent priest, Herr Rainer Eppelmann, now prominent on the centre-right, was defended by Herr Gysi when nobody else would touch his case. It is no exaggeration to say that all the main activists know and respect one other and many are close friends. Thus, attempts to set up pre-election quarrels on television

constantly fall flat. Their West German mentors admit privately that they are finding their new charges troublesome. "They are all too damn nice to be politicians here," one desperate adviser complained.

Only the communist party, under the canny leadership of Herr Gysi, is pushing the cause of East German identity in the run-up to the elections — making a virtue out of necessity as it has little else to boast about. But the arguments go down well on the streets, even with those who would not touch a socialist party with a barge-pole for the rest of their lives.

If the communists are overplaying the identity issue, the main parties are neglecting it to their cost.

The prospect of *Landesparlamente* being lopped off East Germany and attached by *Anschluss* to West Germany is scarcely a seemly way for two grown-up states to join together, and makes a mockery of earlier claims by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, that the reunification process will be embedded in European unity.

Until the last few weeks, only ro-

mantic intellectuals and the new protected species of unreconstructed Marxists ventured that the drive to unity was tending towards the Federal Republic swallowing up the GDR.

It is now clear to all that the pace of progress is being decided between Moscow and Bonn, with East Germany being informed virtually as an afterthought, and a hankering for the autumn days of 1989, when East Germans themselves influenced their fate, is spreading.

One day there will no longer be an East German sense of identity, but its traces and scars will long outlive the state itself. A new and healthy pan-German identity will not grow simply by hanging the garland of prosperity around the neck of the newcomers.

Those who had lived within the collapsed system will need time and understanding to deal with their own role in its perpetuation, or to work out the bitterness of the wasted years. A little polite regard for the absurd, painful and particular experience of 18 million people for nearly half a century might yet provide a smoother passage to a united future.

Bonn to withdraw special privileges for new arrivals

From Ian Murray, Bonn

East Germans are to lose all the special benefits for which they have qualified automatically so far on arrival in West Germany. The Cabinet yesterday decided to amend the law granting them these special privileges and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) will raise no objection to a step they have themselves been urging.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD's likely candidate as chancellor in next December's general election, has gone even further than the Government. With West German unemployment at over 2 million and an acute housing shortage developing in big cities, he would like to see East Germans paid to go home again.

The benefits were originally designed to encourage and help refugees from communism. It is being cancelled now as part of the Government's efforts to stop the continuing, economically damaging exodus of people seeking a better life in the West.

Since last September, when the first wave of East Germans arrived through Hungary, around 400,000 of them have made use of the emergency facilities at a cost of DM 500 million (£181 million). More are still arriving at an average rate of about 2,000 a day, straining the housing, employment and schooling resources in West Germany and depriving East Germany of the skilled workforce it will need to rebuild its economy.

The Cabinet yesterday decided that after the free elections in East Germany next Sunday, there is no logic in granting special privileges to people who are living in a

democracy. Herr Wolfgang Schäuble, the Interior Minister, said that currency union between the two Germanies, and the economic reforms being introduced, along with the first steps towards unity, should rapidly improve the standard of living in East Germany.

Given this better perspective, he said, East Germans ought to be persuaded to stay and work for a new beginning. That meant there was no need for emergency help on arrival in the West.

Cancelling the benefits is meant to be a deterrent to people coming. As an incentive to people to stay, the Government has decided to support an exchange rate of one-to-one into Deutschmarks for private East German Ostmark savings.

The legal requirement to provide help meant that, when the rush of refugees began last autumn, special camps had to be set up as reception centres along the borders, with teams of counsellors and employment officers available to help people integrate. Each refugee



Herr Lafontaine: Urging payments for return exodus.

qualifies for DM 200 (£73) in cash and subsequently income support of up to DM 2,400 a year for each member of the family for the first four years after arrival.

This is in addition to children's benefits at varying rates. There has been preferential treatment for East Germans on housing lists and they have qualified for loans of up to DM 10,000 to buy furnishings for a new home.

These benefits were not resented in the days when leaving East Germany was dangerous and difficult, but now that anyone can pack up and go at will, the welcome has worn thin.

A recent poll showed that 71 per cent of West Germans believe that benefits for East Germans are too high, while only 22 per cent were still in favour of them being given automatic right to citizenship.

The change in the legislation will not, however, seek to stop East Germans from travelling to the West. This would be impossible anyway after reunification since everyone would then have equal status.

Less stringent curbs are being placed on the ethnic Germans from elsewhere who come as refugees to the West — largely from Poland, the Soviet Union and Romania.

In future, however, they will have to prove that they really do have German roots before being allowed in to claim citizenship and benefits. At present a small proportion of those who arrive from East bloc countries have no German ancestry at all but pretend they do in order to be able to live in the West. By the time the truth is discovered it is too late to send them back.

Campaign bouquets for Modrow



Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister and the main candidate for the Party of Democratic Socialism, being welcomed with a mass of flowers from his supporters after campaigning in Neubrandenburg for the election on Sunday.

Novice voters baffled by choice

From Girard Steichen, Ludwigslust, East Germany

Herr Gerhard Loos scans the political campaign posters plastered on Ludwigslust's soot-stained walls and decaying buildings, and shakes his head in bewilderment.

"This is almost as bad as the Weimer Republic," Herr Loos says, referring to the confusing array of more than 20 political parties competing for votes in the first free elections in East Germany for 57 years.

Herr Loos, aged 48, a sanitation worker in this town of 12,000 people, 100 miles north-west of Berlin, says that he is still undecided. "There's just not been enough time to sort them all out."

At Ochmke's Taverna, one of the town's two pubs, located in a dark and shabby side street just off the town square, Sunday's elections dominate beer- and schnapps-inspired political debate.

"If you don't vote, you'll give the communists their final victory," Herr Hans Jäger, the proprietor, admonishes an apathetic patron.

Herr Jäger, a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), passes out campaign literature along with his beer. "After all these years of tyranny and one-party rule, you have to get involved."

For many East Germans, the dizzying changes since the hard-line communist regime was ousted in October have brought agonizing choices.

Herr Reinhold Schwarz, a teacher in Ludwigslust, says that when the Berlin Wall began to crumble in November, "almost everyone turned to the SPD because it offered familiar social ideals and programmes. Now the issues are money and the pace of reunification."

In recent weeks, the SPD has been losing ground to the Alliance for Germany, a coalition of three conservative parties forged with the help of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor. The Alliance, headed by the East German sister party of Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic

Union (CDU), is campaigning on a platform of quick reunification based on provisions already in the West German Constitution.

Such notions have won increasingly broad support among East Germans facing the looming prospect of economic ruin. Some Alliance candidates have also suggested during the bitter campaign that Bonn may be more reluctant to provide economic assistance if the SPD scores a decisive victory.

Frau Renate Wiese, an East Berlin restaurant manager, says: "People who think voting CDU is going to bring them quick prosperity with reunification are in for a rude awakening."

Frau Wiese, aged 39, says she favours the SPD's slower and more cautious prescription for eventual reunification based on a new constitution to be ratified by voters in both German states. But Herr Wilhelm Brock, who operates a small private cleaning company in East

Berlin, says the CDU has the support of fledgling private entrepreneurs. "The Alliance offers the market economy we want and need," he says.

For others, however, the spectre of the rapid reunification proposed by the conservatives amounts to a shameful sell-out to the West.

"In effect, we're just giving away the country, ourselves, and all the positive things we managed to accomplish despite the Stalinists," says Herr Siegfried Müller, who declared in the bar his intention to vote for the Party of Democratic Socialism. It was recently created out of the shambles of the disgraced Socialist Unity (communist) Party.

This election has been a sham since the day West German politicians set foot here and began running it for their own purposes," Herr Müller says. "But we still have something to offer in our own right and we have to protect that. The issue here is East German dignity."

Leader of party was spy for Stasi

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

One of the principal candidates in East Germany's forthcoming election yesterday admitted that he worked as an informer for the Stasi secret police under the former regime and resigned his party leadership.

Herr Wolfgang Schnur, who led the Democratic Awakening party within the right-wing Alliance for Germany, confirmed from his bed in an East Berlin hospital allegations that he passed information on his clients to the East German security services while working as a lawyer defending dissidents.

He is currently suffering from physical and nervous exhaustion.

The most ambitious of the three conservative leaders in the Alliance, Herr Schnur recently told a rally: "Here stands your next Prime Minister."

The Bonn Government last week defended Herr Schnur, saying that he had passed information to West Germany enabling it to help political prisoners in the East, but diplomatic circles in East Berlin confirmed yesterday that evidence of the lawyer's Stasi activities had since been passed to Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

The chairman of the West German Christian Democrats, Herr Volker Rühe, visited Herr Schnur in hospital yesterday and urged him to resign to limit damage to the Alliance's chances on Sunday.

His admission was disclosed by the CDU in West Berlin while the Democratic Awakening headquarters in East Berlin was still calling the allegations a smear campaign. The news is a severe blow to the party's chances but it is thought that most of its voters will transfer allegiance to the other two conservative parties in the Alliance.

Herr Schnur was accused of complicity with the security service after the commission responsible for the dissolution of the Stasi in Rostock, where he had his practice, discovered files on dissidents apparently supplied by him under the codename "Torsten".

Receipts for payments and commendations signed by Herr Erich Mielke, the former Minister for State Security, were also found, but Herr Schnur insisted that they had been falsified as part of a "Stalinist smear campaign" against him. However, a member of former Stasi agents now living in West Germany confirmed the allegations.

EC fears on reunification

Brussels — Signs are emerging in Brussels that the European Commission feels increasingly excluded from the German question as Bonn sets the pace for reunification (Peter Gifford writes). A serious crack appeared in the Commission's cautious diplomacy towards the issue this week when Mr Karl Van Miert, the Belgian Commissioner, accused the West German Government of "only paying lip-service to the European Community".

In an interview with the Flemish newspaper *De Morgen*, Mr Van Miert said that "double-talk over the Oder-Neisse border" by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, mixed with a reluctance to have the EC involved in the reunification process, meant "the work of many years risks being lost".

These are moderate words compared with Mr Van Miert's private outbursts recently to

journalists. His staff insist he is not speaking for the Commission, but they say some of his colleagues share his fears. Lamenting what he called Britain's tendency "always to limp behind the others on integration", Mr Van Miert said Herr Kohl was giving Britain wider scope to slow the pace of European unity.

Mr Van Miert believes the emergency Community summit in Dublin on April 28 must give a "renewed commitment to keeping Germany in Europe" to prevent the EC losing relevance for the Germans.

Herr Kohl has promised not to let German unity hinder EC integration. He has offered Herr Martin Bangemann, the West German Commissioner, a seat at Cabinet meetings which discuss the EC impact of reunification, and West Germany now briefs Community ministers on moves to fuse the two currencies.

Military reform of Warsaw Pact

Romanian Army seeks Sandhurst touch

By Paul Martin

General Victor Stanculescu, the new Romanian Defence Minister, has asked Britain if Romanian army personnel can receive training at British military establishments, including The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

If the request is approved, it will be the first time military personnel from a Warsaw Pact country have been admitted to training facilities belonging to a Nato member state.

During unpublished talks last Friday with Mr Tom King, the Defence Secretary, the Romanian minister urged "an exchange of experience" between the two armed forces and "co-operation in higher military education".

General Stanculescu said the objective was "to bring together two armies that are in two different defence treaties, yet each of whom promote a

programme of disarmament and understanding that makes a new war in Europe impossible".

The Ministry of Defence refused to reveal what its attitude to the Romanian requests would be, except to state: "Any exchange of personnel would only be hypothetical at this stage."

Romania appears to be taking a similar line to other East European states in declining to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, despite its revolution.

General Stanculescu, appointed only a fortnight ago, expressed determination to see an "opening to the Western world", not only in defence but in other spheres, including commerce and industry.

The general, accompanied on his visit to Britain by Mr

Aurel Stolica, an academic recently drafted in as minister in charge of the country's huge mechanical industry and aviation, says they also secured promises of government help.

Rome — The Pope has appointed 12 new Romanian bishops, the Vatican announced yesterday (Richard Bassett writes). They are the first Vatican appointments since relations between the Holy See and Romania were broken off by the communists in 1948. The Communist Government then unilaterally abandoned the country's Concordat with the Vatican.

on a range of financial and industrial co-operation. A huge production deal for civilian BAC-111 aircraft is close to completion. Worth an estimated \$1 billion (£625 million) over 10 years, it has

been agreed in principle between the Romanians and British Aerospace, as revealed exclusively in *The Times*.

Since his appointment, General Stanculescu has been pushing ahead rapidly with a programme to "depoliticize and democratize" the armed forces in Romania.

Among the measures introduced by the general are the sacking of political commissars, the ending of Marxist indoctrination courses, improving army rations, bolstering the living standards of officers and conscripts, and abandoning the use of army personnel as "free labour".

He has also forced into retirement a number of generals and senior officers seen as obstructive to change.

His predecessor, General Nicolae Militaru, had been brought back by the National

Salvation Front as a stopgap measure — he had clashed previously with Ceausescu — but he was regarded by senior officers as too conservative and unwilling to take tough measures.

General Stanculescu also described as a key priority "measures to improve the quality of the Army's equipment", a possible pointer to another unique request from a Warsaw Pact country — to purchase arms from Nato members.

The general is also launching reforms to the Army's training programme, intending to raise levels of skill and encourage initiative. It is believed that he hopes to invite British officers to Romania.

Bucharest introduced legislation last week to cut the period of military conscription from 16 to 12 months.

Finns remember war that saved them from Stalin

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

While the Baltic republics are struggling to regain their independence Finland celebrates quietly the 50th anniversary of the Winter War which saved it from Stalin's terror and enabled it to remain independent and democratic.

On March 13, 1940, Finland's blue and white flags were flown at half mast with black ribbons because Finland was forced to cede one-tenth of its territory after bitter fighting against the overwhelmingly bigger Soviet Union. Yesterday the flags were flying high because half a century's events have shown that what looked like a partial defeat was actually a victory.

Finland remained the only European neighbour of the Soviet Union which was never occupied or sovietized. Today it is one of the 10 richest industrial countries in the

world with a fast growing hi-tech economy while there are increasing reports of hunger in backward Soviet Karelia and other parts of northern Russia.

The Winter War, which roused the world's conscience was Finland's answer to the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop pact by which Stalin and Hitler carved up north-eastern Europe. During the 100 days of fighting the Finnish army lost 25,000 men but was able to annihilate 300,000 to 500,000 Soviet soldiers — no one knows exactly how many. Nikita Khrushchev said in his memoirs that the Soviet Union lost one million men.

As usual, Finland celebrates in a very low key fashion although everyone knows how what the country managed to escape. *Glasnost* in the Soviet Union has given Finns added satisfaction, because

more and more Russian specialists have admitted that the war was all Stalin's fault. In post-war decades there was a clear tendency in Finland, encouraged by the former President Urho Kekkonen, to belittle Finland's achievement, but that has changed completely.

The quiet remembrance of the 50th anniversary yesterday shows clearly how the Finns will tread carefully to avoid anything which could jeopardize their hard-fought position.

They feel that they have been able to turn their position and the once derogatory term "Finlandization" into a worthy goal for those countries which Stalin was able to grab, but they are also determined to stay out of anything whatever happens in the Soviet Union.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Angry scenes as Austria stems flow of Romanians

From Ernest Beck, Hegyeshalom, Austrian-Hungarian border

The main motorway crossing point here between Hungary and Austria became the scene of despair and chaos yesterday as more than 10,000 Romanians, anxious to reach Austria before visa curbs came into effect at midnight, surged towards the frontier and overwhelmed border officials.

Reports say that about 5,000 Romanians managed to cross the border during the day, while another 6,000 are still waiting on the Hungarian side in a long tailback as the deadline neared.

In an attempt to stem the influx, Austrian officials tightened border crossing requirements. Border policemen have been instructed to require Romanians entering the country to prove that they have hard currency to pay for at least a 14-day stay in Austria, amounting to 5,000 shillings (about £265), or that they had visas for other countries. Those who could not comply were being turned back.

The Austrians also strengthened patrols on the so-called "Green Border" to stop refugees on foot.

Yesterday's wave of Romanian refugees are among thousands to seek political asylum in Austria recently because of the uncertain political situation in their country. But the surge has pushed Austrian refugee reception capacities to the limit and has incited public demonstrations against allowing more asylum-seekers to enter the country.

As the Romanians who did make it across the border headed towards a refugee centre in Lower Austria, furious residents blocked roads with cars and lorries to try to stop them.

Austrian television quoted the residents as saying that the Romanians are merely economic refugees with no right to stay in Austria and that they fear their presence will ruin the tourist trade.

Political co-operation between the Twelve was falling ever further behind social and economic integration. It was stuck in a "grey area", was too reactive and was making it harder and harder for the Commission to take initiatives in foreign policy.

He said the EC would increasingly have to talk about security issues, as Europe moved towards common security. But the present political co-operation process, with a separate secretariat, made it difficult for the Commission to take a lead or form policy on the basis of consensus. The Twelve were reacting to events rather than forming a policy beforehand.

He told the European Parliament that this was one of the issues that had to be tackled in negotiations about reform of EC structures. Such reform must be discussed at the inter-governmental conference in December. But it should not overshadow negotiations on economic and monetary union.

His remarks came as the

Austrian radio said that the almost 35,000 Romanian refugees now in Hungary could possibly make a dash towards the border as the visa deadline neared. But Hungarian officials claim that this is unlikely as the majority of Romanians have been in Hungary for some time, having escaped before the revolution, and are not interested in political asylum in Austria.

In Budapest, the Hungarian Parliament yesterday purged the last vestiges of the country's communist past by approving a general amnesty for all people convicted of "crimes against socialism" before dissolving itself to pave the way for multi-party elections in two weeks time.

MPs approved a series of Bills which granted "moral and political rehabilitation" to hundreds of thousands of people prosecuted between 1945 and 1963 during the Stalin and early Kadar eras who were "deprived of freedom by laws which made a mockery of humanity and justice".

Another measure gave financial compensation to more than 100,000 ethnic Germans who were deported from Hungary after the Second World War, and re-instated the citizenship of 3,000 Hungarians who were stripped of their nationality or left the country after the 1956 uprising.

Mr Kalman Kulcsar, the Justice Minister, said these people had been victims of the brutal politics of various governments which continually needed to find class enemies, among them Jews and "agents of imperialism".

In a report on the convictions prepared by a parliamentary commission Mr Kulcsar said many people were prosecuted for "sabotaging the five-year economic plan", killing their own farm animals, and failing to report "crimes against socialism".

Delors urges EC political reforms

From Michael Binyon, Strasbourg

M. Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, yesterday called for a complete revamping of political co-operation in the European Community, saying the present system was unworkable.

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His remarks came as the

Parliament debated a report by Mr David Martin, a Scottish Labour MEP, which called for a big increase in Parliament's powers and insisted on a pre-conference meeting this summer to plan a parliamentary role in the inter-governmental conference.

M. Delors promised that the Commission would take part in this meeting. He also gave broad approval to Parliament's demands for more power. He said it was wrong that EC ministers could pass directives that have been rejected by Parliament. This should be changed.

But his conciliatory words came only a day after an angry confrontation here with the Parliament's political leadership, which he accused of holding up Single Market legislation in an attempt to usurp more power.

In a stormy session, he accused the Parliament of virtually blackmailing the rest of the EC with threats to delay measures already agreed by the Commission and EC ministers.

Parliamentary leaders were yesterday furious at his tactics, which included a threat to resign. "It ill behoves the President of the Commission to come to tell us how to run a democracy," a socialist spokesman said.

Iran frees 20 PoWs

Geneva (Reuters) — Twenty Egyptian prisoners who flew from Tehran to freedom yesterday, after being held since the Gulf War, walked hesitantly down the ramp of an Iran Air flight here as if unsure that they really were being set free. They broke into smiles, however, when they realised that they would soon be on their way back to Cairo under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Offer rejected

San Salvador (Reuters) — The Salvadorean Government dismissed as propaganda a left-wing rebel offer to suspend attacks affecting civilians.

Rebel deaths

Rivera (Reuters) — Sudanese troops and militia killed more than 200 rebels in three separate battles, the state radio reported.

Child has son

Asmara (Reuters) — A Turkish girl, aged nine, is well after having a healthy son by Caesarian section.

Killer storm

Houston (AP) — A tornado killed two people as it cut a 100-mile path through the flat countryside of south-central Kansas.

Cholera aid

Brussels (Reuters) — The European Community has given £325,000 of emergency aid to fight a cholera epidemic in Angola and Zambia.

Private launch

Cape Canaveral (Reuters) — A U.S. company has launched a five-tonne communications satellite here.

Moscow calls for new limit on Western forces

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The Soviet Union has told Nato governments that it wants all Western forces in Central Europe, including the German *Bundeswehr*, limited to 750,000, according to diplomatic sources yesterday.

With the next round of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks starting in Vienna today, Moscow's new position has come as a surprise, especially after the agreement reached in Ottawa last month for Soviet and American forces in Central Europe to be set at 195,000. Nato thought that put paid to the manpower problem.

It was stressed that Moscow had not tabled the 750,000 figure as a formal proposal in Vienna. But informally Moscow has let Nato know that it still wants a ceiling on all troops, with each side restricted to 750,000.

This is intended to embrace not just Nato stationed forces in West Germany. Moscow's clear aim is also to cut the size of the German federal armed forces, now totalling about 490,000, the diplomatic sources said. Undoubtedly the Soviet Union has in mind the prospects of imminent German reunification.

Nato has always resisted attempts to include manpower in the CFE talks. The only concession was the decision by President Bush to limit American forces to 195,000 in Central Europe, with an extra 30,000 in Britain, Italy, Turkey and Greece.

Nato delegates at the Vi-



Defence cuts: Sparks fly as a workman near Frankfurt dismantles the turret of an American-built West German M48 tank, one of 235 to be destroyed. Nato is also to propose that each country should have a fixed number of facilities — probably military rather than commercial — for carrying out the destruction of equipment.

enna talks are hoping that Moscow will eventually drop its insistence on imposing a ceiling on all troops.

As the negotiators begin their sixth round of talks — and the second year — Nato delegates will table detailed proposals for destroying equipment covered by the talks. At the end of the last round, on February 22, Nato tabled proposals for the verification and inspection

regime. The Warsaw Pact countries have yet to respond.

The alliance's proposals on destruction, also tabled before any moves made by the Warsaw Pact negotiators, make it clear that the 40,000 or so tanks which the Soviet Union will have to withdraw must be irreparably damaged.

Although it may be possible for a tank's tracks to be salvaged for civilian use, there will be no conversion of tanks

into tractors or bulldozers. Diplomatic sources said the most sensitive parts of a tank, the turret and gun, would have to be cut up and the hull would have to be damaged sufficiently to ensure it could not be turned back into a military vehicle. It will be the same for artillery and armed combat vehicles.

"The destruction has got to be comprehensive," one said. Warsaw Pact delegates have

indicated their willingness to accept a rigorous destruction regime. The Soviet Union and East Germany have tried to convert tanks into farm vehicles, apparently without much success.

Nato is also to propose that each country should have a fixed number of facilities — probably military rather than commercial — for carrying out the destruction of equipment.

Since Nato has to destroy only about 2,000 tanks, the problem is a minor one. But the Soviet Union, will need a large number of facilities.

Nato delegates expect combat aircraft to remain one of the key problems in Vienna. The Soviet Union still insists on excluding air defence aircraft. However, the Vienna delegates are confident of reaching agreement by the autumn, in time for a treaty signing in November.

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South Africa cuts defence spending to help blacks

Cape Town (Reuters) — South Africa, switching its budget resources from security to social welfare, announced deep cuts in defence spending yesterday, and improvements in housing and education for its black majority.

Mr Barend du Plessis, the Finance Minister, said in Parliament: "It is in everybody's interest that a more acceptable and better-balanced situation with regard to living and other standards should come about in South Africa with all possible speed."

Mr du Plessis outlined a swing from heavy security spending to social welfare programmes designed mainly to benefit blacks. He said his proposals were in line with President de Klerk's apartheid

covert operations including the shadowy Civil Co-operation Bureau, which is being investigated for the alleged assassination of anti-apartheid activists.

Mr du Plessis set aside two billion rand from a six billion rand tax windfall for social projects due to be specified by Mr de Klerk soon. These would help tackle backlogs in housing and education resulting from years of policy that favoured whites, he said.

He said not all such backlogs could be blamed on apartheid, "but it is none the less true that certain measures originating in the political aims of the past contributed to certain economic backlogs".

He allocated 150 million rand for capital spending to help black schools eliminate backlogs, and 100 million rand for the promotion of black-owned small businesses. Spending on housing, mainly for blacks, would rise from 917 million rand to 1.46 billion rand, and total spending on education would rise from 11.8 billion to 13.3 billion rand.

Finance ministry officials said the effective increase in spending on black education would rise by 17.6 per cent to 4.9 billion rand, while white education would go up 8.5 per cent to 5.53 billion rand. The Government still spends about five times more on every white child than on each black child, but the gap has been slightly narrowed.

Reforms and his promise of a new South Africa with equal rights and opportunities for blacks and whites.

"This budget... combines a number of new approaches in a dynamic action aimed... at buttressing the new South Africa with a sound and growing economy," he said.

The biggest changes included a break with years of escalating defence spending to hold the armed services to an increase of 1.3 per cent to 10.07 billion rand. Officials said the increase reflected a 1.8 billion rand cut in real terms, when set against inflation of 15 per cent and accounting policy changes that would make the Defence Ministry responsible for social costs previously borne by other ministries.

More than half the defence budget was allocated to the Special Defence Account, a secret fund used to finance

Woman leads pack in gruelling race across Alaska



Forging ahead: Susan Butcher with her team of huskies on the frozen Bering Sea near Erim, Alaska, after promising to win the Iditarod Trail race.

From Susan Elliott Washington

Susan Butcher and her team of huskies yesterday had a slim lead in the gruelling Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome in Alaska. Butcher, who has won the 1,160-mile race three times, passed the previous leader, Lavin Barre, this week. Since the race started 10 days ago, however, she has lost at least five or her original 17 dogs through illness.

When the sleds, known as mushers, left a checkpoint on the Yukon River earlier this week, Barre was about four hours ahead of her and of Joe Runyan, the defending champion.

The trail follows a route between old trading posts which were established in the 18th century for the Russian fur trade. It runs to the gateway to the Bering Sea, 170 miles from the coastal town of Nome. Some mushers snatch only hours of rest in order to stay ahead of the field.

Last weekend Butcher was treated to a gourmet meal of prawns, veal and chateaubriat at the settlement of Erim, and promised to stay in first place for the rest of the journey after being given \$2,500 (£1,560).

US plan for Middle East peace in balance

Religious parties wooed as Shamir faces key vote

From Richard Owen Jerusalem

The fates of Mr Yitzhak Shamir and the US-sponsored Middle East peace process hang in the balance today when the Knesset is due to vote on a motion of no-confidence in the Israeli Prime Minister.

The crisis arose last Sunday when Mr Shamir refused to hold a vote in the coalition Cabinet on American terms for talks with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo on elections in the occupied territories.

Yesterday Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, and other senior figures in his party, paid court to the black-coated rabbis who head Israel's religious parties, which hold the balance of power.

If enough religious deputies side with Labour, Mr Shamir will fall. But he and other senior ministers from his right-wing Likud Party were equally assiduous in their attentions to the Orthodox Jewish groups yesterday. Labour can muster 55 votes, with its left-wing allies, while Likud and the right have 47 seats. Both need 61 votes in the 120-member Knesset to gain a majority — hence the significance of the

religious parties' 18 seats. The Orthodox leaders, some of whom only recently emerged from the synagogues into the raucous arena of politics, professed themselves "uncomfortable" at having the fate of the Government and the peace process thrust upon them.

None the less they bargained with both sides yesterday, demanding stricter observance of Jewish law and increased funds for religious education as the price of their support. Knesset officials said the result today would be a "close call".

Labour ministers left the coalition on Tuesday after Mr Peres had been sacked by Mr Shamir for "trying to undermine the Government" and form a new coalition devoted to a more radical peace settlement with the Palestinians.

Labour petitioned the High Court to have the vote of no-confidence brought forward from today, but failed. Because the dismissal of ministers only takes effect 48 hours later, a vote yesterday would have enabled the Labour ministers to retain their posts in the subsequent caretaker Government, which could last for months.

As it is, even if Mr Shamir is

brought down today he will remain in power for the transitional period untrammelled by coalition constraints. Labour fears Mr Shamir would then move fast to place new obstacles in the way of future peace talks, for example by building new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza in defiance of US threats to withhold economic aid.

This week, Mr David Levy, Mr Shamir's deputy and a leader of the

Jerusalem (AP) — The US has offered a new air defence missile for sale to Israel, but it is not interested, a military official said yesterday. He described the Patriot weapon as "one of the best anti-aircraft missiles" in the world, but added that its anti-ballistic missile uses were limited.

right-wing rebellion within Likud against the American peace plan, laid the cornerstone for a new Jewish suburb of 8,000 flats in east Jerusalem, despite Washington's objection that that part of the city is occupied land under international law and therefore subject to future negotiations.

Mr Levy said the US should not regard the new suburb as a "provo-

cation", adding: "Governments come and governments go, but the building of Jerusalem will continue for ever. Amen."

Mr Levy, who hopes to form a Labour-led government if Mr Shamir loses today, said there would never be peace in the Middle East as long as Mr Shamir was Prime Minister.

Mr Shamir blamed Labour for the crisis, telling a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction that both Labour and Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, had departed from the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections, agreed by the coalition last May, and had clearly intended to involve the PLO in the talks.

An opinion poll in the mass circulation daily, *Yedioth Aharanot*, showed Israelis evenly divided, with 35 per cent supporting Likud and 36 per cent backing Labour. The paper said both sides were to blame for the crisis, and had let Israel down at a crucial moment in its history, when peace talks with the Palestinians were within grasp for the first time since the Jewish state was founded 42 years ago.

● Bush letter: President Bush has written to Mr Teddy Kollek, the

Mayor of Jerusalem, in what appears to be an attempt to damp down the political storm over Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem (Daniel Treisman writes).

Israeli politicians reacted angrily to recent comments by Mr Bush condemning the Israeli settlements built on territory in the eastern part of the city occupied by Israel after the 1967 Six Day War.

About 120,000 Jews now live in strategically-placed annexed suburbs which almost completely surround the city's 150,000 Palestinian residents.

In the letter, made public by Mr Kollek at a press conference yesterday in London, President Bush does not retract his earlier comments and he emphasizes that all sides should be "avoiding steps that could prejudice the prospects for... negotiations".

But the President reiterates the US position that "Jerusalem must never again be a divided city" and that its status "should be decided by negotiation".

Mr Kollek said that he was very pleased by the letter, which he hoped might lessen argument over the disputed city.

Socialist power games leave French unmoved

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

As the party faithful gather in Rennes today for the congress of France's ruling Socialists, a barbed cartoon underlines the vast indifference of many of the voters who put them into power. It shows three of the leading politicians now jockeying for the eventual succession to President Mitterrand limping on crutches through a crowd of people with their backs turned. "How terrible," reads the caption in *Le Canard Enchaîné*, "the French could not care less!"

To judge by a pre-conference poll, even hard-core militants seem to have lost much of their fire, with more than a quarter of those questioned admitting that they have no candidate in mind for the key post of party secretary. Recent local election results indicating that the French are steadily losing enthusiasm for the Socialists complete a picture that is hardly guaranteed to get proceedings at Rennes started with a swing.

For all the public apathy, there could be enough drama to leave the floor spattered with blood as those trying President Mitterrand's shoes for size begin the skirmishing. The confident assumption that he will not stand for a third term in 1995 (when he will be almost 80) has already begun to undermine the discipline that previously held the party together under the great man's eagle eye.

No fewer than seven prominent party men will present alternative platforms setting out battle lines under which

the succession will be contested. Some, like the veteran activist M Jean Popere, have no hope of winning the leadership but, in established French political tradition, seek to damage the prospects of candidates they dislike most.

Thus, supporters of M Laurent Fabius — former Prime Minister, fallen star — are thirsting for revenge on M Pierre Mauroy, whom he replaced as Prime Minister



M. Rocard: Staying power has surprised his rivals.

but who subsequently defeated him in an acrimonious contest for the first secretary's post. M Mauroy now seems to be heading for re-election, and no doubt has plans to blight the prospects of this particular opponent.

In that, he can bank on support from M Lionel Jospin, the Education Minister, who ran the party throughout M Mitterrand's first spell in the Elysée Palace. Then there is M Michel Rocard, whose staying

power has disagreeably surprised rivals who initially dismissed him as stop-gap Prime Minister.

Although it is clear that the public has rather taken to M Rocard, his centrist inclinations do not please the Socialists' militant tendency.

M Rocard has a fierce desire for the Elysée, and naturally hopes divisions within the Mitterrand magic circle will let him through on the rails — especially if the President decides not to complete this term. M Rocard can take some encouragement from the poor showing of another potential rival, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Defence Minister, who is beginning to sound like a Gaulist with left-wing inclinations.

It would be wholly out of character for M Mitterrand to show his hand. There have been moments when he seemed positively to relish juggling with the hopes of those who would replace him. Sly hints of preference for one candidate are followed by "authorized" leaks that quite another is the front-runner or, maliciously, that no-one has what it takes to succeed him.

The result is to encourage infighting, as events at Rennes are likely to demonstrate. Another of *Le Canard's* cartoons says it all: while

Mauroy, Fabius, Rocard and Jospin are brawling below, the godlike Mitterrand floats on a heavenly cloud, gazing into a mirror as he declares: "I should never have made man in my own image."

Suicide of therapist who survived death camps

From Charles Bremner, New York

Dr Bruno Bettelheim, the child therapist who became one of the great figures of post-war psychology, has committed suicide at the age of 86.

In killing himself, he followed Primo Levi, the Italian writer, and other survivors of Nazi death camps whose emotional suffering led them to put an end to their own lives decades after being liberated.

The Viennese-born psychoanalyst was found by staff at his Maryland nursing home with a plastic bag over his head.

Dr Bettelheim, a profound thinker whose insights into the human condition had been moulded by a year and a half spent in the concentration camps of Buchenwald and Dachau, rose to international prominence after the war as a pioneer in the treatment of autistic children.

In 30 years at the celebrated Orthogenic School at the University of Chicago, he promoted "an attitude of respectfulness and hopefulness for children who have been outcasts of society", as Dr Jacquelyn Sanders, the school's director, said in a tribute yesterday.

Stern and often crusty, Dr Bettelheim preached a gentle creed based on the virtues of tolerance and self-control by parents.

He attracted some disapproval from his own generation in the 1960s for his tolerance of student radicals. Two years ago he summed up his life's work in *A Good Enough Parent*, saying he

believed that children were innately good.

Along with the compassion and wisdom expressed in works such as his *Love Is Not Enough* and *The Uses of Enchantment*, Dr Bettelheim remained afflicted throughout his life by the pain of the death camp survivor, a condition he wrote and spoke about after his arrival in America in 1939.

The Nazis released him that year under pressure from Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt and US politicians.

In 1943, he shocked many Jews with an essay which held that "ghetto thinking" by the Jewish race was partially responsible for bringing down the Holocaust.

Like Levi, who killed himself in 1987, and Jean Amery, the Austrian philosopher who

committed suicide in 1978, he suffered agonies of guilt and incomprehension over surviving the Holocaust.

committed suicide in 1978, he suffered agonies of guilt and incomprehension over surviving the Holocaust.

In 1979, Dr Bettelheim wrote that "one group of survivors allowed their experience to destroy them; another tried to deny it any lasting impact; a third engaged in a lifelong struggle to remain

aware and try to cope with the most terrible, but nevertheless occasionally realized, dimensions of man's existence".

Dr Bettelheim clearly considered himself in that third group, but at the very end he gave up what he often said was a lifelong struggle to "invest life with meaning".

Yesterday, his friends recalled the thoughts of the earlier victims, whose otherwise productive lives were haunted and eventually doomed by the shadow of the camps. After Levi threw himself into a stairwell in Rome, Miss Natalia Ginzburg, his poet friend, said he had been killed by his memories. Levi saw himself as bearing the shame of the survivor, rather than the Ancient Mariner who could not rest because "Since then, at an uncertain hour, That agony returns".

Amery foretold his own death, saying: "Anyone who has suffered torture never again will be able to be at ease in the world."

In *The Ultimate Limit*, written two decades ago, Dr Bettelheim sketched the rationale for his own suicide. "So intricately, so inextricably interwoven are death and life's meaning that when life seems to have lost all meaning, suicide seems the inescapable consequence."

● WASHINGTON: East Germany has donated a collection of Nazi-era artefacts and documents to the Holocaust museum being built here.

The hidden hurt, page 11

WORLD ROUNDUP

Bhutto urges new Afghan initiative

Islamabad — Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is seeking a new Soviet initiative to solve the Afghan problem including the formation of a broad-based government acceptable to all sections of the Afghan people (Zahid Hussain writes).

She told a press conference here yesterday that recent events in Afghanistan indicated a new opportunity for the solution of long-standing Afghan problems. She called on the Soviet Union to revise its policy on Afghanistan in the aftermath of the recent military uprising in Kabul, saying: "The Soviets should not favour any party in the conflict." She asked Moscow to withdraw its support from Dr Najibullah's regime in Kabul. She denied that her Government was involved in the coup attempt against Dr Najibullah.

Riding high in Texas

Washington — A wealthy cowboy who has pledged to run his state like his ranch has overwhelmingly won the race for the Republican Party's nomination for governor of Texas (Susan Elliott writes). Mr Clayton Williams, left, who prides himself on being shod in cowboy boots, spent an estimated \$6 million (£3.75 million) of his vast oil fortune on a campaign that included a barrage of slick television advertisements across the state that President Bush has adopted as his theme.

Mongolia challenge

Ulan Bator (Reuters) — The powerful trade unions in Mongolia threatened yesterday to divorce themselves from the country's beleaguered communist party in what officials and diplomats said was a serious blow to its weakening grip on power. The challenge was issued as the 240-strong Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party met for a third day and prepared for a late-night vote expected to accept the resignation of their leader, Mr Zhambyn Batmunkh, and the seven-man Politburo. Mr Batmunkh, a cautious reformer who has led the Mongolian party since 1984, proposed the mass resignation on Monday under pressure from newly formed opposition parties inspired by the dramatic political changes in Eastern Europe.

Dilemma for doctors

Hong Kong — Public health care administrators here are watching helplessly as medical and nursing staff resign are flocking to the private sector, and allegedly stepping up fees, in what many believe is their only chance of earning the price of a passport before the territory reverts to rule by China in 1997. An informal survey suggested 99 per cent of government doctors wished to emigrate before the handover.

Australian told to go

Port Moresby (Reuters) — Rebels now in control of Bougainville ordered an Australian to leave at gunpoint yesterday as tensions increased on the South Pacific island, an Australian diplomat here said. A foreign affairs spokesman in Canberra confirmed that Mr Barry Middlemiss had been ordered to leave when rebels accused him of writing a report for a Papua New Guinea newspaper alleging that lawlessness was rife on the island, completely in the hands of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army as a result of the withdrawal of government forces on Monday.

Brazilians pin their hopes on sporting new President

From Mac Margolis Brasília

Brazil's youngest President and the first to be directly elected in three decades takes office today amid hopes of a new era of democratic freedoms and fears over an economy torn by runaway inflation.

Senator Fernando Collor de Mello, aged 40, the former governor of a poor north-eastern state, turned a revolt against inefficiency and corruption in government into a startling victory in last December's presidential contest.

Senator Collor, the scion of a wealthy, landed political clan, inherits a convincing mandate, but also a country on the brink of hyperinflation and a society deeply disenchanted with its political leaders.

He will be sworn into office today in the futuristic building of Congress, where his tiny National Reconstruction Party holds a fraction of seats.

The new Government is expected to announce a series of sweeping reforms tomorrow, including a massive reduction of the outsized bureaucracy, the sale or outright closure of money-losing state enterprises, and possibly massive layoffs. The reforms are needed drastically to reduce inflation, now approaching 80 per cent a month, or more than 2,500 per cent a year.

Senator Collor, a black belt in karate, has vowed to deliver a "karate chop" to inflation, slashing the price spiral to less than 10 per cent a month in the first 90 days of his Government. As if to emphasize

that message, Senator Collor, an avid sportsman, has posed for Brasília's press corps in recent weeks in a series of rigorous activities. He piloted a jet ski machine on the city's northern lake and challenged a congressional cronny to a drag race on a motorcyle.

Senator Collor won that race, but the contest against inflation may be a tougher one. He will need the approval of Congress to implement most of the measures, especially privatization of public companies and laying off public employees.

So far, most of Congress appears to have signed on to the Collor bandwagon. "Everybody wants to be close to the new prince," said Senator Waldir de Góes, a political scientist. But, as in the case of

neighbouring Argentina, where President Menem had — and squandered — a honeymoon in his first months of government, Senator Collor's spell over tensured politicians may be short-lived.

Already, the anticipated economic measures have sent jitters throughout the Brazilian financial world. To dampen speculation, the outgoing Government of President Sarney on Tuesday declared a three-day public holiday. The measure froze deposits and headed off a possible run on the banks by worried investors. The move was also taken to halt a wave of monetary speculation in recent weeks which has caused a rush to the black-market dollar and gold.

"We wanted to guarantee calm

and preserve the popular economy so that the measures of the new Government can be announced in absolute tranquillity," said Senator Zelia Cardoso de Mello, Senator Collor's Minister of the Economy.

Nevertheless, the holiday caught most Brazilians by surprise, and many rushed out to electronic banking stations to stock up on cash.

Despite the worries, opinion polls here show that a majority of Brazilians are optimistic about the Collor Government and in accord with the new President's expected reforms.

"Collor has managed to convince the people that, finally, someone is in charge here," said Senator Amaro de Souza, a business consultant.

السلامة

March 14 1990

PARLIAMENT

Irish ruling 'slur on the Ulster prison service'

The decision of the Irish Supreme Court not to extradite to Northern Ireland two men who escaped from the Maze prison was widely regarded as a slur on the Ulster prison service.

Responding to a private notice question about the case, he said that the decision was "an unacceptable slur on the professionalism of the men and women of the Northern Ireland prison service".

The conditions in the Maze

prison, and the conditions throughout the prison system in Northern Ireland, were widely regarded as among the best in Europe.

The British and Irish governments were pledged to ensure that effective arrangements were in place for dealing with fugitive offenders. Extradition was a vital factor.

"Our principal concern, shared with the Irish Government, is that the system as a whole should work effectively, as well as fairly. We shall be pursuing this with the Irish Government."

Mr James Kilgallon (North Down, DUP), who asked the private notice question, said that the decision had caused widespread anger and dismay, particularly for the people of Northern Ireland who had suffered for 22 years.

The decision seemed to provide a

bar to extradition from the republic of terrorists so long as those atrocities were part of their brutal campaign to bomb Northern Ireland into an all-Ireland republic.

Mr Brooke asked the Prime Minister to have an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic (Mr Haughey) to ensure that the next six wanted men would be committed from the Irish Republic to face justice in the UK.

Mr Brooke said that he was at one with Mr Kilgallon. Until the judgement had been studied, comment on the effect it would have on other cases would be speculative. If the judgement affected the extradition of the six wanted men, the immediate impact would be limited, because there were no other Maze cases before the Irish courts.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of

the Ulster Unionists, said that bewilderment at the decision was surpassed by the earlier Supreme Court ruling on March 1, that the claim to a united Ireland was a valid legal claim.

That judgement had discredited all the assurances of the Anglo-Irish agreement. It provided grounds for yesterday's decision by the Supreme Court, which felt that, having established its legal claim to Northern Ireland, it was free to argue that it could not be expected to transfer prisoners from one part of its territory to another.

Mr Brooke said that he could see no basis for the assertion that in the light of that judgement about a united Ireland, the Irish authorities could no longer extradite persons to Northern Ireland.

that the failure to extradite a suspected terrorist, Mr Ryan, last year and to extradite yesterday two convicted terrorists revealed "in the most awful way" the unsatisfactory nature of the extradition arrangements with the republic.

Mr Brooke said that the disappointment yesterday must be set against the generally satisfactory working of the extradition arrangements.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Alliance, Lab) said that the judiciary was independent of the Executive and the Supreme Court was specifically obliged to protect the constitutional rights of citizens.

The Rev William McCrea (Mid Ulster, DUP) said that the judgement had given great sorrow and joy to the terrorist organizations.

There were feelings of terror in his

constituency where one of the terrorists had been convicted of terrorizing people along the border. "What happened yesterday was another kick in the teeth for her Majesty's Government."

Mr Brooke said that he should respect the independence of the judiciary of the Irish Republic in exactly the same way as we would expect them to respect the independence of ours.

Mr Gerald Birmingham (St Helens South, Lab) said that until they knew the exact reasons and the reasons why they could not take it forward constructively. It would be wiser to know the reasons so that discussions could take place with the Irish Government.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Barton, C) said that if terrorists were to get the impression that courts were leaning

on their side, what chance was there for defeating them?

Mr Brooke said that if anything is seen to encourage terrorism in any part of the world, we would regret that.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that they shared the surprise and disappointment at the decision. However, the courts must remain impartial, detached and free from pressure.

Was Mr Brooke considering whether the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act could be invoked? Mr Brooke said that extra-territorial prosecution was a matter for the Attorney General, who would consider it when the full judgement was received.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

Overnight sitting ends amid 'scenes of grave disorder'

Amid scenes of "grave disorder", Tuesday's sitting of the Commons ended at 1.30 pm, 23 hours after it had begun.

Labour MPs used a variety of procedural devices in an attempt to prolong the sitting to wipe out Wednesday's session.

MPs had spent the night on the first day of the report stage of the National Health Service and Community Care Bill. When the Government sought to end the debate at 10.30am, Opposition MPs made clear their objections and the protests and points of order continued to a further three hours until the Speaker adjourned the House.

Mr Tim Renton, the Government Chief Whip, announced that a guillotine is to be introduced to ensure that the Bill completes its remaining stages by Thursday, as it had originally planned. His proposal was described by Labour as a destruction of democracy.

At 10.35am, nearly 18 hours after the report stage had started, Mr Tom Sackville, a Government whip, moved the motion to adjourn the debate.

Mr Cook said that he was surprised the motion had been moved now. If it had been moved to save MPs from a night out of bed, he would have understood.

But to move it now was surprising. They should at least continue until they came to the clause about junior doctors' hours. It would be instructive for the House to debate the Bill for as long as junior doctors were expected to work at weekends, from 9am on Friday through until 5pm on Monday.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) said that debate was being curtailed to prevent an amendment being discussed on the list of 30 or so Conservative MPs who had connections with private medicine.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said that if the Government brought in a timetable motion, Labour MPs would bring Parliament to a halt. The public ought to know about what was going on in the sleazy relationship between Tory MPs and private medicine.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said that if and when

NHS BILL

they reached that amendment, the 30 MPs who had an interest in private medicine should not be eligible to vote on the motion for a guillotine.

Mr Cook said that the way Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, had described Opposition tactics in the committee stage of the Bill went beyond the bounds of behaviour that was acceptable between front benches.

"So long as he holds office of the Crown he will never again get agreement from me for any legislation he brings to the House. He is not a man who can be trusted with any agreement" (Labour cheers).

Mr Clarke said that Mr Cook might be wounded by his candid description of his performance in committee, and the quality of the arguments that he had produced, but he (Mr Clarke) was entitled to those opinions, and he was sticking to them.

Mr Cook said that among important matters still to be discussed was the situation of carers who served society so selflessly.

Mr Clarke intervened to say that once MPs had got past New Clause 1 (dealing with preserving the right to income support for elderly people in residential homes), the Opposition had set out on a filibuster.

At midday, the motion to adjourn the debate was carried by 254 votes to 169 - Government majority, 85.

Mr Renton then announced that later today there would be a timetable motion on the Bill and that the report stage would be completed today. The third reading of the Bill would be tomorrow.

Mr Cook said that this deeply unpopular Bill now threatened to damage democracy and the House itself; there was to be no opportunity for proper debate on important issues. There were 40 new clauses and 212 new amendments. One hundred of the amendments were government proposals.

Mr Renton said there was no question of the timetable damaging democracy or the House. But the House had been

damaged by Mr Cook's long speeches.

Mr Renton said later that there had been an agreement between the front benches that the report stage and third reading would last two-and-a-half days. Between 5am and 11.30am Mr Cook had spoken for three hours, nearly half the time available.

Mr Tom Clarke, Opposition spokesman on personal social services, on a point of order, said that there never had been an agreement between the front benches about the length of the report stage.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl Cymru) then declared that strangers were present in the House.

The Speaker, as required by standing order, put the question, that strangers do withdraw.

After the division had been proceeding for some minutes over the expected length of time, the Speaker said: "I direct the Sergeant at Arms to inquire why there is delay in the divisions."

Without further explanation, the tellers returned a few minutes later and the result declared: the strangers motion was lost by 190 votes to 2 - government majority, 188.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Moseley Hill, Lib Dem) then presented a petition from some of his constituents against the community charge.

Before he had a chance to deposit the petition in the bag behind the Speaker's chair, Mr Stephen Dorrell, a Government whip, moved that the House should adjourn. Miss Emma Nicholson (West Devon, Tory), Mr David Davies (Torridge, C) rose to open the 30-minute adjournment debate on the subject of women's gynaecological privacy.

However, Mr Skinner insisted on a point of order that he wished to move the writ for the by-election at Upper Barnet, vacant because of the death of Mr Harold McCusker, the Ulster Unionist MP.

Several other Labour and Plaid Cymru MPs rose to try to put points of order.

The Speaker then said: "I adjourn for grave disorder in the House."

Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13



Lady Trampington, Minister of State, Agriculture, visiting Littlefield Manor Farm, near Guildford, Surrey, yesterday. The farm has received one of the ministry's farm diversification grants, enabling it to begin work with horses.

National Health Service Bill

Labour outraged by guillotine

The guillotine motion curtailing debate on the remaining stages of the National Health Service and Community Care Bill was the last throw of a discredited doctrine that "Number 10 knows best".

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said when the timetable motion was debated. It was a doctrine, he said, of which the nation was heartily sick.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, had moved a timetable motion to end the report stage at midnight and to allow three hours for the third reading debate tomorrow.

He said that the Govern-

ment's desire to avoid a guillotine had been demonstrated by its generous provision of time for discussion on the Bill and everything appeared to be going well until the Opposition decided to reverse the extremely sensible conduct it had followed in committee.

Mrs Alice Mahon (Halifax, Lab) intervened to say that, far from being satisfied with the progress of the Bill in committee, she was "bloody mad" about some aspects.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said that no one could really pretend that the motion would allow adequate

consideration of one of the most important pieces of legislation placed before the House in the 20 years he had been an MP.

Mr Clarke said that motion would enable MPs to proceed in a perfectly reasonable fashion. There had been two days of second reading debate, and more than 100 hours in committee.

The Government was now trying to make up for injury time caused by the filibuster.

Mr Cook said that there would be 285 minutes to debate 252 amendments. Some 100 government amendments would be put to the House in one go. There was no parallel

with the proposal before the Commons.

The Bill had been conceived in secrecy and discussed by ministers behind closed doors. They took no evidence and had not issued a Green Paper to stimulate debate. The Bill was as unpopular as the poll tax Bill at the same point in its passage through Parliament.

Democracy would take its revenge on the Government at the next general election for rushing the Bill through the House. It would be rejected along with the Government when the electorate had its chance to speak.

Three-vote defeat for ministers over old people's care

The following report of later speeches during the first day of the report stage of the National Health Service and Community Care Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government was defeated by three votes on an Opposition proposal requiring it to meet in full the cost of keeping very elderly people on income support in residential homes.

An Opposition new clause to the National Health Service and Community Care Bill was carried by 256 votes to 253 during the first day of the report stage. But, in a second division on the technical motion to add the clause to the Bill, the voting was 246 to 219 - Government majority, 27.

After the announcement of the division results, Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said that they would return to the issue on the Social Security Bill (now in committee).

Moving the new clause earlier, he said that it obliged the Department of Social Security (DSS) to pay enough income support to elderly people to allow them to meet the fees of private residential homes. Mr Cook added

SOCIAL SECURITY

that the clause was supported by 30 Conservatives.

People fell into a trap. They entered a home with an assurance that the DSS would meet the charges through income support, but now they were being short-changed.

He cited the case of one man, aged 90, who was put out of a home where the charges increased more quickly than the increase in income support. Seven weeks later, he had died.

How could they allow such a man - too confused, too disoriented to know what was happening - to be evicted because the benefit was not sufficient?

According to different studies, two tiers of accommodation were emerging in the private residential sector. Virtually 90 per cent of homes offered only shared accommodation to residents on income support and inferior meals were offered them.

The liability to pay was on the resident, not the relative, and the

relatives themselves were often elderly and retired pensioners. It was a cruel and stressful situation which would continue.

Miss Ann Widdecombe (Maidstone, C) said that there were two reasons for the distortion between the charges levied by homes and the level of income support: the immense rise in interest rates that meant enormous sums being paid by homes to service capital investment, and the wholly justifiable rise in nurses' pay.

The Government's policy of trying to close larger mental hospitals was jeopardised because people in such hospitals could not be discharged as they had nowhere to go.

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab) said that they were talking of people who had been through two world wars, had never been unemployed and always paid rates and taxes, and when they needed to go into a home, they and their relatives would not be faced with the bill.

Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington, C) said that the problem

The 33 Tories who voted against the Government in the first division were: Rupert Allason (Torbay), Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak), Vivian Bolland (Ilford, North), Michael Colvin (Romney and Wateride), Patrick Cormack (South Staffs), Stephen Day (Cheadle), Timothy Devlin (Stockton, South), George Gardiner (Reigate), Sir Philip Goodhart (Beckenham), John Greenwood (Rye), Peter Griffiths (Barnstaple, north), Jeremy Hayes (Harlow), Sir John Hunt (Ravensbourne), Sir Charles Irving (Cheltenham), Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston), Sir Anthony Meyer (Clywd, North West), Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (Barnet and Hendon), Sir David Price (Eastleigh), Tim Rathbone (Lewes), Roger Sims (Chislehurst), Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington), Tony Speller (North Devon), Robin Squire (Horsesham), Tony Taylor (Southend East), Peter Temple-Morris (Leamington), Malcolm Thornton (Crosby), Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford), Miss Ann Widdecombe (Maidstone), Mrs Ann Winterton (Congleton), Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield), Mark Wolfson (Sevenoaks), Michael Woodcock (Ellesmere Port and Neston), Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton).

required looking at or they would end up with a lot of satanic geriatric wards and unpleasant homes. The wellbeing of thousands of old people had to be safeguarded.

Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent, C) said that he would be astonished if the Government accepted the clause. There was no way of preventing charges rising.

Mr Alfred Morris, Opposition spokesman on the disabled, said that the attitude of ministers was causing

"If the new clause is unacceptable, what are the Government going to do?"

Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, said that the change from one system to another must be carried through in a phased and manageable way.

The new clause contained a substantial degree of open-ended commitment which would raise costs all round. It would greatly reinforce the so-called "perverse incentive effects" attracting into homes people who might be better cared for in the community. Saying this was not at all to same as declining to recognize MPs' real concern.

He could give a number of undertakings which did not constitute specific commitments about what financial limits would be in place, but about the spirit in which he would approach the decisions.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said that the principle of the new clause, can he accept the principle?

Mr Newton said that he could not give a simple answer.

Move for Scottish health service watchdog fails

An attempt by the Opposition to set up a commission for the health service in Scotland was rejected by MPs during the all-night sitting on the National Health Service and Community Care Bill.

Moving a new clause to the Bill, Mr John Maxton, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that if the Government genuinely believed that the interests of patients, doctors, nurses or other workers, believed the claims.

The new clause would estab-

lish a quality control commission that would define qualities in the health service in Scotland and ensure that they were met.

The Opposition believed the Government's health service reforms were designed to give profits to large numbers of its friends and to shift the health service in Scotland towards a commercial operation leading eventually to complete privatization.

Sir Hector Mearns (Dumfries, C) said that the new clause amounted to a serious criticism of the area health boards. A new layer of bureaucracy was unnecessary.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) moved an amendment to the new clause, requiring the

commission to carry out investigations annually to ensure that standards were met.

The danger was that the Government's proposals would lead to a fragmented health service in Scotland.

Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said that it was remarkable that the Opposition had made no reference to the £60 million released as additional resources for health boards.

If the new clause were accepted it would mean substantial additional costs for the health service which would be money diverted from patient health care.

The new clause was rejected by 215 votes to 87 - Government majority, 128.

Sweeping tax changes pledged

An attack on poverty by the next Labour government would be led by sweeping changes to tax and benefit systems.

Lord Carter, speaking from the Opposition front bench, said when opening a debate in the House of Lords calling attention to the gap between rich and poor.

He said that the top 1 per cent of taxpayers had gained £22,680 a head in 1988-89 as a result of tax changes. That was more than the annual income of 93 per cent of people.

In recent years, the nation had witnessed the most significant redistribution of economic wealth since the dissolution of the monasteries. The change in policy since 1979 had been dramatic, resulting in a lowering of the real value of benefits for millions.

A Labour government will reform the tax system and the

HOUSE OF LORDS

social security system. We will introduce a national minimum wage. That is the key to lifting the lowest paid out of income support.

The tax system would be made fairer. The lower rate would be about 20 per cent and the top rate 50 per cent. National insurance would be replaced by a social insurance with a less regressive contribution system.

Child benefit would be increased and the tax on workplace nurseries would be removed. Labour would restore the principle of collective provision for social security and reduce reliance on means-tested benefits.

There would also be reform of

pensions, with restoration of the link between pensions and increased earnings, and pensions would be based on each individual's best 20 years' earnings. There would also be a bonus on the basic pension at 75.

Those who could not work because of disability would have a guaranteed income.

The Opposition were determined to restore social justice linked to collective provision. That was ethical socialism, or political common decency.

Lord Joseph (C) said that he took some responsibility for the economic strategy of the Conservative Government in 1979 and did not regret the effects.

The tax revenue from the top bracket had increased, jobs had increased and entrepreneurship had grown.

Lady Fisher of Rednal (Lab) said that a dual labour market

had grown up under the present Government. One was well paid with highly skilled jobs in good conditions with good employment; the other was low paid with temporary and part-time, low-skilled employment.

The growth of that system had widened the gap between rich and poor, and the Government had to subsidize low wages through income support instead on employers paying a decent wage.

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev John Yates, said that the churches shared the dilemmas and problems that they addressed. They were property owners, employers and for the most part they identified more with the have than the have nots in society.

But they were also, closer to poverty than many.

Champion speaks for Rantzen

There was loud laughter at questions when Mr Nigel Griffiths, Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs, said that there was public concern at the failure to reappoint Miss Esther Rantzen to the National Consumer Council.

He said that Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs, could not face the criticism which this consumer champion had articulated on behalf of millions of people.

Miss Rantzen was paying the price for supporting the Consumer Guarantees Bill, which people wanted overwhelmingly, and which Mr Forth was implacably opposed to.

Mr Forth: I am not aware of the source or nature of this public concern. Esther Rantzen has served three terms on the National Consumer Council and this is exceptional. I felt it was time for new blood and new ideas.

He said that, despite the fact that during her television programme Esther Rantzen invited people to write to their MPs expressing their concern about the Bill, he had received only one letter.

Harrods case raised again

The Government came under renewed pressure at question time over its response to the DTT report on the takeover of the House of Fraser by the Fayed brothers.

Ms Marjorie Mowbray, Opposition spokeswoman on the City, asked under what conditions it would operate the "public interest" clause of the Directors Disqualification Act if not in those revealed by the report.

Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs, declined to add to recent government statements on the matter. He said that it had been decided that it was not in the public interest to pursue this particular case.

Parish plan for London

Mr Shimon Hughes (South-west London, Lib Dem) was given leave, bringing in a Bill to allow parish and community councils to be set up in Greater London.

He said that the Bill would create parish councils only in areas where they were not already in existence, like everywhere else. It is not one metropolitan.

The parishes were needed to counter the present remoteness and alienation. "They need not be significant bodies. They might need one or two clerics. Meetings could be held in local halls."

Queries raised by Perrier

Information which came to light during the recent Perrier water contamination incident had raised questions about the labelling of water and the Government is seeking clarification from the European Commission.

Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, said in a written Commons reply.

He said in another reply that the United Kingdom was pressing for implementation of the EC proposal requiring mandatory declaration of analytical composition of such water.

Tunnel traffic assurance

The net extra traffic resulting from the Channel tunnel is not expected to be significant compared to forecast traffic growth generally. Mr Robert Atkins, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written Commons reply.

Parliament today (2.30p) Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister; National Health Service and Community Care Bill, third reading; Private Members' Business.

Lords (3): Courts and Legal Services Bill, third reading.

An heir to the Prince of Wets

THE TIMES PROFILE

DAVID HUNT

Political reputations are rarely made these days in a single debate, as when Iain Macleod arrived with a first effort described as "not so much a maiden speech, more a brazen hussy of a speech". But David Hunt, named yesterday to take over as Secretary of State for Wales at the end of May, probably clinched his Cabinet place with a single speech in the finest of the old debating traditions.

On January 18, the Commons came to vote on Revenue Support Grant orders confirming administrative arrangements for the much-derided poll tax. A massive rebellion loomed, and it fell to Mr Hunt as the Minister of State at the Environment Department to wind-up in the highly charged debate to a packed House.

Normally in such a situation ministers plough line by line through a prepared text, taking as few interruptions as they can get away with and ignoring almost completely the case advanced by their opponents.

Coolly, Mr Hunt advanced to the Despatch Box without a note in his hand. His only aide-memoire was a list of the constituencies of the previous speakers propped on the table before him. Then, in a quiet, sometimes conversational tone he took up point by point the objections raised by the opponents of the community charge both during the earlier debate and by intervention during his speech.

It was the political equivalent of walking the high wire without a safety net, all the more surprising from a man who had spent many of his 13 years in the Commons in enforced silence as a whip. But it worked brilliantly. The Opposition sat quietly, allowing themselves to be smothered by such reasonableness. Tory rebels were charmed by Mr Hunt's painstaking courtesy and detailed responses into turning votes against into abstentions and abstentions, in a few cases, into positive votes. And Mr Hunt was precipitated immediately into the pack of able, middle-rank ministers knocking at the Cabinet door.

David Hunt now makes it to the top table ahead of such obvious contenders as William Waldegrave, David Mellor, John Patten and Michael Portillo. And he is an appropriate successor in many ways to Peter Walker, apart from the useful qualification of having been born in Glyncorrwg, North Wales.

The links with Mr Walker are considerable and the best confirmation of the claims that Mr Walker's departure was amicable is that the departing minister has clearly helped to clinch the job for his successor. Mr Hunt's prefer-

ment was announced in advance — exceptionally — because Mr Walker wanted the news out before he went before the Welsh Grand Committee in the Commons yesterday.

David Hunt is MP for Wirral West, where he succeeded in 1976 the former Speaker and Chancellor of the Exchequer Selwyn Lloyd. Selwyn Lloyd, whom he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary, was once Mr Walker's mentor. Mr Hunt was Mr Walker's lieutenant as his coal minister at the Department of Energy during the miners strike. And, like Mr Walker, Mr Hunt is a former national chairman of the Young Conservatives.

Mr Hunt is a patron of the left wing Tory Reform Group and Mr Walker is the group's president. Mr Walker has five children, Mr Hunt and his wife, Paddy, four — and the couples live only a few doors apart in Cowley Street, Westminster.

The question now is — how wet is David Hunt?

Certainly, his early career confirms him as a One Nation Tory by inclination. His political instincts first emerged when as a schoolboy in Liverpool he went with a friend to make a film about the tearing down of the city's slums. It did not turn him socialist because he noted the widespread resentment of those being forced to leave the scruffy

but cosy world they knew for soulless new towns. But he has never ceased to call for crusades against poverty.

He talks eagerly of his Merseyside boyhood and once made one of the longest speeches in Parliament since the war, filibustering to defeat a Bill which would have ended the ferries across the Mersey.

He will lay down his recently acquired responsibility for inner city policies with genuine regret. Typical of Mr Hunt's quiet forcefulness is that at the Department of the Environment he won full control of the inner city questions previously shared with other departments, and had the Cabinet Office team concerned drafted into his office, without any evidence of departmental clashes. And there, perhaps, is the difference from Mr Walker. Peter Walker likes to make a splash, David Hunt is the tidy political diver.

Wetishness, indeed, almost cost Mr Hunt his political career. In a youthful progress which reflected the fashion of the times by taking him to chairmanship of the Young Conservatives, the Government's advisory committee on pop festivals, and chairmanship of the British Youth Council, he was dropped as Conservative candidate for Plymouth Drake in 1972 after right-wingers objected to him leading Young Conservative attacks on Enoch Powell.

He has campaigned for a Bill of Rights, worked to prevent right wing fringe infiltration as a national vice chairman of the Conservative Party, and opposed education vouchers and other favourite Thatcherite nostrums. But since his ministerial career began, Mr Hunt has never done anything to allow his loyalty to be questioned. And those who once saw him as a sea-green inconvertible of the Tory left noted that he voted for the restoration of capital punishment for the murderers of policemen and prison officers.

It was Mr Hunt who, as deputy Chief Whip between the 1987 election and his appointment to Environment last year, had to defend to the 1922 Committee the imposing of a three-line whip against Tory backbencher Mr Richard Shepherd's Official Secrets Bill, and he has had to defuse revolts on such touchstone

issues for the Wets as the uprating of child benefit.

Always calm, well-dressed in the understated style of the solicitor and Lloyds underwriter which he is, David Hunt is, by common consent, one of the most agreeable men in Conservative politics. But colleagues say that a touch of blandness has crept in since the years of youthful indiscretion.

The lack of *hwap!* might disappoint them in Wales. But, as a former university debating champion, Mr Hunt will not be short of words. And if he is unlikely to follow Mr Walker's tradition of coded speeches to the party conference fringe attacking economic policy, he is still likely to share his predecessor's interventionist approach to the Welsh economy.

He is sustained by one of the largest Conservative majorities in the country, and clearly has much going for him. Mrs Thatcher has appreciated his loyalty and cool authority in fending off the attacks on the community charge. He would fit just as easily into a Heseltine administration. But to continue his smooth political progress further up the Cabinet table, perhaps he needs now to let some of that youthful political passion show through.

Meanwhile, he must hope that a natural successor to the Welsh post emerges over the next two or three years. Nicholas Edwards, too, earned early promotion to the Cabinet as Welsh Secretary. But the paucity of candidates qualified to succeed him then left him bemused for eight years. Becoming Welsh Secretary can be like a yellow-barred traffic crossing — do not enter unless you can see your exit is clear.

Robin Oakley



BIOGRAPHY

- 1942: Born north Wales, son of a Liverpool shipping agent. Educated at Liverpool College, Monmouth University, Bristol University.
- 1968: Becomes solicitor.
- 1972: National Young Conservative chairman.
- 1974: Contests Kingswood, Bristol.
- 1976: Elected for Wirral (now Wirral West) at by-election.
- 1981-83: Assistant Government whip.
- 1983-84: Senior whip.
- 1984-87: Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Energy.
- 1987: Minister for Energy.
- 1987: Deputy Chief Whip.
- 1988: Minister of State (Minister of Local Government) Department of the Environment.

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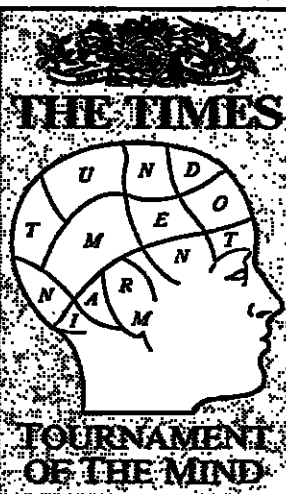
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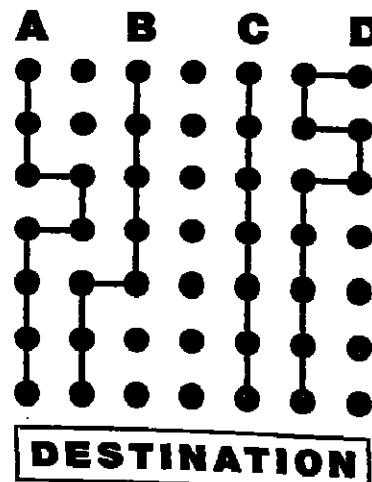


● Round Nine contains a puzzle to test your knowledge of famous quotations. Solve it, you could be on the way to winning £5,000 or, for the winning school team, a computer.

● Only the *Collins English Dictionary* (second edition) and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (15th edition) are used to gain answers.

DIAGRAMS:

The dots represent street corners. Each street corner is exactly 5 miles apart. Car A travels at 35 mph, car B at 32 mph, car C at 26 mph and car D at 37 mph. The cars set off at the same time, but which one reaches its destination first?



LOGIC

Consider the logic in the following groups of figures. What value should replace the question mark?

$$\begin{matrix} (12 \ 6 \ 6 = 78) & (21 \ 3 \ 12 = 75) \\ (6 \ 8 \ 11 = 59) & (17 \ 5 \ 9 = ?) \end{matrix}$$

MATHS

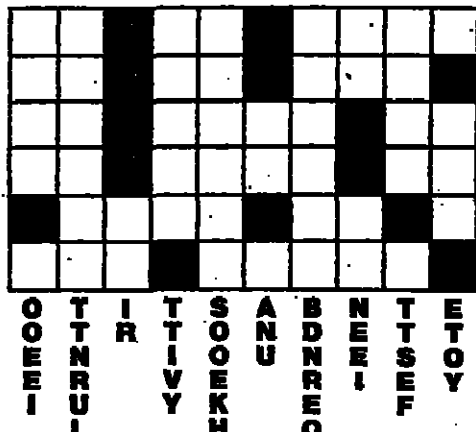
A petrol tanker is travelling at a speed of 65 miles per hour. However, it is leaking petrol and the petrol catches fire at the precise moment the tanker moves off. The petrol flame follows the tanker at a speed of 64 mph. The tanker stops after 175 miles. How much time, to the nearest second, elapses from the time the tanker stops to the time the flame reaches it?

MISCELLANY

What is the main waterway of Venice?

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HEALTH

Coping with hidden hurt

None of us knows how we will face up to a crisis until the dark day comes. Will we be able to weather the emotional after-effects of a car crash, a mugging, the helpless witnessing of death? Or will we sink under the strain?

One thing is clear: those who have been trained to handle crises do not necessarily fare better than the rest of us. In the last week we have heard about how soldiers drilled to cope with battle conditions have been traumatized by the Falklands War.

Building societies — faced by a big increase in the number of armed raids — are sending teams of counsellors to comfort their battle-weary cashiers. Counselling is being arranged, too, for fire and ambulance crews, police officers and tube drivers. Only yesterday a tube driver who averted a crash at King's Cross on Monday revealed that he was being treated by a doctor for the effects of stress.

Children, too, need help. Professor William Yule, of the Institute of Psychiatry, told a conference in London this week of how a six-year-old boy who had been trapped during the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster attempted suicide.

But is it professional help that is needed? What happened to loving support from colleagues, friends and relatives for the victims of the collection of symptoms known as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)?

Crisis is a universal experience. Everyone reading this article will either have been through an urgent, stressful situation which seems overwhelming at the time, or will do so. According to Dr Glenys Parry, the author of *Coping with Crises*, 7, anyone's life can be ruined by PTSD. A major disaster, which tends to attract a lot of emotional support and counselling, is made up of a series of individual disasters. It is also a shared experience. So are battle conditions, which is why former soldiers seem not to cope as well as those who have the continued support of their colleagues.

Similar stress is caused to those who witness or are involved in a bad road crash, or who stand helplessly by while someone dies of a heart attack. Every year about 1,000 people are killed and another 63,500 are seriously injured on the roads of Great Britain. No one knows how many others are traumatized simply by being involved, either as witnesses

Is professional counselling the best treatment for the survivors of a crisis?
Ann Kent reports

or participants. Heart disease and strokes kill more than 250,000 Britons every year. The trauma which accompanies these events is seldom publicized. Dr Parry says: "The statistics on road accidents are horrific — but we don't think of the massive number of people who are very nearly killed, or who see someone else killed."

However, Dr Parry, a clinical psychologist at the Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, believes that there is a positive side to a crisis. Many people emerge stronger and better balanced, depending on the type of help they get, and her book aims to show the most effective way of giving this help.

"A crisis makes us aware of how we live with the illusion that we live in a safe world," Dr Parry

'Being with someone having a heart attack brings home to you how fragile your own life is'

says. "Smashing illusions is painful, but it leaves us stronger and wiser. Being with someone when they are having a heart attack brings home to you how fragile your own life is... Trivial problems never seem quite the same again."

PTSD usually arises when people feel they have lost control of their lives, as a result of an experience when they genuinely do lose control. For example, when they have been helpless faced by an armed attacker, or trapped in a crashing car.

"I heard of one patient whose personality started to change six months after he was cut out of a car crash," Dr Parry says. "He became very irritable and had flashes of violence. He started to suffer from depression and

frightening impulses. Because these problems may surface months, or years, after the crisis, people often don't realize the origin."

She emphasises that some signs of mental distress are part of the healing process. These include re-examining a bad experience in your mind, dreaming about it, and having sudden flashbacks.

The support of friends and relatives can help, but there is danger in telling the traumatized individual to "think about something else", or "pull yourself together".

Dr James Thompson, senior lecturer in psychology at the Middlesex Hospital and a specialist in post trauma reactions, runs a stress clinic and is researching the emotional after-effects of a variety of disasters, including car crashes. He says: "There is still a general lack of recognition of the psychological impact of a major, life-threatening event. However, I expect that the people most badly affected are those who have experienced long, drawn-out terror, perhaps because they were trapped in the vehicle for a long time."

Graham Buxton, a former police officer and the spokesman for the Campaign Against Drinking and Driving, believes that there is an urgent need to provide help for families who are traumatized by road accidents. "When children are killed, it is quite common for the parents to be so badly affected that they never return to work. I know of a very capable schoolteacher who has had to give up his job after his car was hit by a lorry which spun out of control, killing his eight-year-old son. His daughter has been in and out of hospital suffering from mental stress."

Mr Buxton's daughter, Annette, aged 21, was killed eight years ago when her car was hit by a drunken driver. He and his younger daughter came upon the scene of the accident, although they were not allowed to approach.

"I wasn't prepared for what hit us," he says. "People think that after three or six months you will be more or less back to normal, but in fact as time passes the full effect hits you. It is like a disability, like losing a limb."

Tim Lynch, a radio operator in the Falklands War, says that his emotional problems became more noticeable four years after he left the Army. He is now in his final year studying social anthropology at Sussex University, and believes



Tragedy for victims and survivors: a devastating road accident, and rescuers at the King's Cross disaster



that he has been helped by becoming involved in a survey of stresses suffered by other veterans. "I realized that I wasn't the only person who felt this way."

Mr Lynch would like to see helpines and self-help groups for ex-servicemen so they can talk about the effects of experiences in the Falklands, Northern Ireland, or in any conflict.

Mr Roderick Ormer, district clinical psychologist for Lincoln,

who has carried out a study of former servicemen's attitudes to stress, believes there should be a survey of all veterans when they leave the services. "When post-traumatic stress syndrome occurs, it is not just the servicemen who are involved. We are talking about family breakdown, family disharmony."

He believes the best type of help is likely to come from other veterans and self-support groups.

And he has doubts about the value of counselling for those who have been involved in "everyday trauma".

All of which means that some people will, indeed, manage without professional help — while others will need a counsellor.

● *Coping with Crises*, by Dr Glenys Parry, is published on May 7 (British Psychological Society and Routledge, £5.99 paperback, £16.99 hardback).

HOW THEY HELP

Building societies are deeply concerned about the effects of repeated armed raids on the morale of their cashiers. In some city areas, the same branch can be attacked twice within a few months. The Leeds Building Society is looking for an expert to train personnel officers in better ways of counselling staff who have been traumatized by raids. Mr Adrian Drysdale, personnel services manager, says: "Sometimes there is a John Wayne syndrome where staff don't want to admit they suffer from stress, and so it is a matter of trying to break down the barriers. We try to prepare them for the emotional turmoil and reactions they might face, but when you are faced with a gun, your mind can go blank. There is no need to feel guilty about it, though many people do." The Abbey National has a small team of trained counsellors to talk to the staff of raided branches. Mr Len Lambert, manager of occupational health and welfare services, says: "The after-effects of a raid include anxiety if a victim sees someone who looks similar to the raider, or an anniversary effect when they get particularly nervous at the time of day when the raid happened."

There are also feelings of guilt about handling the money over.

"One of our counsellors visits two or three days after a raid and talks to all the staff individually and at length. Six weeks later she will go back again. Most people get over the experience very quickly but a small number will need long term help."

London Regional Transport provides individual counselling and a monthly stress, anxiety and depression group mainly used by drivers who have been affected by train suicides. Separate groups are run for employees who need help in getting over the trauma of a personal attack (there were 135 assaults on tube staff in 1989). "The King's Cross fire was the catalyst which prompted us to set up counselling services because many of our drivers were badly affected," an LRT spokesman said.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Service has issued a report on stress suffered by ambulance crews in which counselling facilities are strongly recommended. According to London Ambulance Service, working parties have been set up to put the recommendation into action.

Counselling services are also being introduced by a number of police forces and London Fire Brigade has a seven-person unit which offers confidential counselling for fire crews.

Too much of a good thing

Those who cannot resist a smile when following the paths of righteousness have led to another's disaster have had a satisfying week. The journal of the American Medical Association reports that a patient who faithfully followed his doctor's advice to have a plentiful of bran for breakfast to relieve his constipation was admitted to hospital within 10 days of the consultation as he was suffering from an acute abdominal emergency. Far from relieving his sluggish bowel,

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

the bran had clumped together in his small intestine, completely obstructing his guts. The patient needed major surgery, but fortunately made a full recovery. This case may have been

somewhat unusual as the patient was taking diuretics (water pills) for his high blood pressure and drank little in the way of tea or other fluids at breakfast.

Even so, the authors suggest that although a high-fibre diet has some advantages, it is always safer to introduce it gradually over four to six weeks, and that it is better to take several different high-fibre foods in the course of the day rather than rely upon one large plate of fibre-rich cereal at breakfast.

Grain hazards

While American doctors discussed bran overdosage, British dentists were being told of the dangers of another health food, granary bread sandwiches. Mr Michael Watson, general secretary of the General Dental Practitioners' Association, said that thousands of patients each year broke their teeth by biting on hard grains in unrefined bread, and that although some of the teeth were decayed, others might have survived for some years if the sandwich had been cut from a white loaf.

Continental bread has always been a hazard to those with poor teeth or loose fillings when travelling in Europe; if a disaster left the nerve exposed, there was until recently no alternative to taking painkillers by mouth, and applying whisky or brandy to the tooth, while trying to find a dentist. Various firms have now produced a do-it-yourself tooth-filling kit for holiday-makers. The procedure is simple: a tube of paste is

mixed with a catalyst, in the same way some modern glues are prepared, to form a temporary filling, which should last until the traveller returns.

Quick nose job

Melvin Bragg's nose always looks perfectly reasonable when it is seen on television but, it is reported, its airways easily become blocked. Apparently he is to be admitted to hospital for some re-fashioning. Doctors are becoming increasingly aware that recurrent nasal obstruction is not only inconvenient, but also predisposes a patient to a whole list of diseases, including heart attacks, high blood pressure, strokes and, as a consequence of heavy snoring, broken sleep, which can lead to car accidents next day when the driver is overtired.

The usual operation to enlarge the nasal passages is a sub-mucous resection. The operation, although straightforward, requires a general anaesthetic and a night or two in hospital. The surgeon

makes an incision through the mucous membrane, so that the underlying bone or cartilage can be remodelled in such a way that any obstruction to the airway is reduced. The stitches are removed within 10 days. The operation is usually trouble free, but occasionally recovery is delayed by infection or a post-operative bleed. Most patients should be back at work within three weeks.

The patient who has any discomfort in the first 48 hours after surgery is often advised to use ice packs. Frozen pea bags are ideal — they should be applied to the nose for 30 minutes every three hours. After 48 hours, a warm compress is used.

Asthma delays

Despite a 10-year campaign to prevent delay in the diagnosis of asthma, which is responsible for much unnecessary ill health, and the subsequent undertreatment, which is the principal cause of death in the 2,000 patients who die an-

nually from it, cases are still being missed.

Dr Alan Jones, the medical adviser on general practice to the medical school of the University of Wales, found that in 1984 in his West Glamorgan practice 8.8 per cent of the children were known to have asthma, whereas national statistics suggested that the figure should have been between 10 and 12 per cent. Dr Jones organised a detailed survey, which is reported in *The Practitioner*, to trace the missing sufferers; he found that the true instance in children up to the age of 12 who at some time or another had had asthma was 17.8 per cent.

Dr Jones has devised a formula to calculate the likely delay before a doctor makes a correct diagnosis; he found that the average delay was 40 per cent of the age of the child at the time of diagnosis. Thus, a 10-year-old was likely to have been wheezing for four years before parents and GP tumbled to the cause of his chest troubles. Correct diagnosis didn't always please the family: 16.6 per cent of the parents refused to admit that their child might have asthma.

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Turning back the farm clock

Old MacDonald had a farm... as the nursery rhyme runs. A farm with animals for songs and picture books, and nowadays mostly for memories. But television's Paul Henry wants to be a farmer, just like Old MacDonald. He has bought a farm in Suffolk and three mighty cart-horses, and he intends to turn the clock back to the days before inten-

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

sive rearing and chemical fertilizers. In *The Times* Review section on Saturday, he writes:

"Many modern farmers will be laughing their socks off at the thought that a smug countryman can teach them anything about growing food. You will be able to follow Paul's experiences starting on Saturday, and in a regular column through the year."

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TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

As democracy triumphs worldwide, it begins to look distinctly groggy in the United States. In 801 elections in 1986 and 1988, all but 1.5 US congressmen were re-elected: a 98 per cent success rate which prompted Ronald Reagan to remark that even the Supreme Soviet had a higher turnover. An incumbent's advantages are overwhelming: instant name recognition, big campaign contributions, free mass mailings (California democrat Tom Lantos alone sent out 1.9 million letters last year), limitless free travel and a \$431,760 allowance for staff, who are frequently employed for patently electoral purposes. Small wonder that congressmen cost the taxpayer an average of \$941,569 a year. Their most bizarre perk is surely the right to provide constituents with Stars and Stripes which have flown over the Capitol. This being election year, Capitol flag-flying crews have since January 1 hoist 23,400 for a few seconds each on three specially-erected poles: a rate of more than 300 a day.

What are we to make of the US Vice-President? In Chile on Sunday for President Aylwin's inauguration, Dan Quayle stopped at an open-air stall and made straight for a grinning Indian doll whose extremely generous mien he came suddenly apparent when lifted by the head. Quayle was delighted, but his wife Marilyn was appalled: "Dan, you're not getting that. Oh no..." Undeterred, Quayle slipped a secret service agent \$4 to buy the obscene doll for him. American papers ran the story, but not one dared use the picture.

Tuesday saw the Texas gubernatorial primaries, and the Democratic Party must have been mightily relieved. Its candidates had truly disgraced themselves. Former governor Mark White's ads showed him with all the criminals he'd sent to the electric chair. Attorney General Jim Mattox replied with ads boasting that he'd personally attended 30 state executions. Another White ad said of Mattox: "Watch his lips - if they're moving, he could be lying." When both men gleefully savaged frontrunner Ann Richards for refusing to say whether she'd ever used drugs, she openly accused them of lining their pockets while in office. "If she'd been a man, I'd have hit her," said White. At the campaign's outset all candidates had pledged to forswear "negative communications regarding the personal life, character or integrity" of their opponents.

BARRY FANTONI



'Obviously Dame Edna's an exception'

The political rehabilitation of Richard Nixon appears complete. Nearly 16 years after a Congressional committee voted to impeach him, he made a triumphant return to the Capitol last Thursday. In May he publishes an autobiography, revealingly entitled *In the Arena: A Memoir of Victory, Defeat and Renewal*. In July his \$25 million Presidential Library finally opens in his Californian birthplace, Yorba Linda. He ducked a question last week about whether he now felt "at peace" with himself, but the library offers a clue. With Nixon's agreement, it has a 60-foot-long Watergate hall chronicling the scandal that forced him from the White House. It will even play excerpts from the most damning of his infamous Watergate tapes.

The last telegram sent out by Lithuania's foreign minister before the 1940 invasion read: "If catastrophe strikes, please consider Stasys Lozoraitis chief of our nation's diplomatic corps." Lozoraitis, ambassador to Washington, kept going for 45 years, forgotten by the world, representing a state that no longer existed, watching his worldwide diplomatic corps shrink from 200 to nearly nothing. He died four years ago aged 88 and his son took the torch. Lithuania's declaration of independence last Sunday changed everything. The musty mansion on 16th Street has been thrown open again, the phones ring constantly and the rooms are full of visitors. "We went through a desert for so many years, no one ever believed us, and now we have reached the oasis," says Lozoraitis junior, now planning his first trip home in half-a-century. His first appointment? With Juozas Urbys, 92-year-old survivor of a Soviet prison camp and the foreign minister who sent that terrible telegram.

I am going away. As I sit down to write this horizontal, my bag is packed, an appropriate message has been programmed into the answering machine and the good chicken stock has been clarified with egg-white and stored in the freezer. I have cancelled four Sunday papers; by the time I return there seems every likelihood that *The Sunday Correspondent* will have merged with the Liberal Democrats; we deserve each other.

Before the car arrives to take me to Heathrow, I shall carry out the final check: passport, ticket, credit cards, driving licence; also a small package, in case I run into trouble, containing an unopened letter from the Prime Minister, a picture of me and Muhammad Ali, a copy of Raine Kruger's *Goodbye Dolly Gray* to show that I understand who won the Boer War (we came second), and a

certificate stating that although I gave Mike Gating's mother a lift up the motorway (she delivers vegetables and hitchhikes back), Mr Gating himself is outwith my acquaintanceship.

I was last in South Africa 20 years ago, when I spent nearly a month in Cape Town vicariously a boat in which 14 of us crossed the South Atlantic in a race to Rio de Janeiro. I cooked. I recall the difficulties I encountered locating capers to go with boiled leg of lamb, also for putting into tartar sauce. And there was at the time in Cape Province - and may still be today - a serious shortage of angelica: not critical, you understand, but I had made a list and

was reluctant to change too many items. I finally settled for crystallized kumquats. I never have understood why kumquats make do with bully beef and kedgeer when they could prepare decent meals of genuine appeal. The only thing which you cannot make on board ship is jelly... unless you are becalmed. We were becalmed for two days, but it was before I had tried to get jelly to set. It is probable that in the history of ocean racing no other crew has sailed 4,000 nautical miles, won line honours, as did we, and averaged a weight increase of 8lb per man.

When you travel to foreign parts, even for a shortish time, it



CLEMENT FREUD

affects the pre-departure days. At Cheltenham races on Tuesday - most of the punters were drunk, which I do not much mind, but they all seemed to come from Birmingham which is harder to take

— it occurred to me that my National Hunt Festival was going to be confined to one day, six races. I therefore determined to pack into this outing the passion, energy and investment usually deployed on the full meeting. I had several moral victories in respect of which I should be getting sizeable bills from Messrs Ladbrokes, Hills, Coral and Kinghorn.

An urgent message to ring my son in New York. I ring my son in New York. "Listen, Dad," he said, "you know John Major?"

I explained that he was my parliamentary neighbour in Cambridgeshire, succeeded David Renton, sat for Huntingdon when I was Isle of Ely. "You met him

with me in Ely Cathedral at a dedication ceremony; we have a photo of the three of us marching past Prince Philip."

My son asked what sort of speaker was John Major.

"All right as a speaker," I replied. "Was a whisp for so many years that we did not hear much of him until lately; unlikely to have an audience rolling in the aisles, but decent and honourable; only real drawback is that Tebbit tipped him for high office. If your bank needs an after dinner speaker, Nigel Lawson will be much more entertaining if rather more expensive. Why are you asking me all this?"

That is the question I should

have put before. It appears that City bookmakers are quoting odds against the length of the Budget speech. You can buy at 73 minutes, sell at 71, and my son wants to know whether I would advise him to go long or short. "A few interruptions," the Deputy Speaker getting angry, someone grabbing the mace, a helpful question or three... Budget speeches are not going to be much shorter than 70 minutes and with a fair wind they could be substantially longer."

"Are you in good form?" asked my son.

I had to admit that but for Bech Road, Cash is King, Jelpe and one or two other quadrupeds I was in fair shape, was off to Johannesburg later this afternoon and no, I am not; there are other people to meet in South Africa and anyway he is in Sweden.

Conor Cruise O'Brien explains the law preventing IRA extraditions

Agreement at loggerheads

extradition of the Maze escapees, Finucane and Clarke. Mr Justice Walsh was explaining the Supreme Court's rejection of a high court finding that Finucane, as a member of the IRA, did not qualify under the political exemption clause in the Irish Extradition Act of 1965, "because the IRA's aim is to overthrow the organs of State" (meaning the Irish state).

Ruling to the contrary, Mr Justice Walsh found "that the Supreme Court could not draw the inference that the political exemption clause in the 1965 Act should not apply to those charged with politically motivated offences when the objective of those offences was to secure Irish unity".

Once you have sorted out that double negative, you will find that what the Justice is saying is that persons charged with politically motivated offences are not

to be extradited "when the objective of those offences was to secure Irish unity". And that, of course, leaves the IRA completely in the clear, as far as extradition is concerned. All their offences are politically motivated and have as their objective the securing of Irish unity. So while this decision stands, no more IRA men will be extradited, whatever they may have done.

Commenting on this week's Supreme Court decision, Mr John Cope, the Northern Ireland minister in charge of security, denied that the decision spelt the end of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The accord, said Mr Cope, "provided the very mechanism by which the situation regarding extradition could be enhanced". Not so. Unless the Irish Constitution is changed, the Irish partners in the Anglo-Irish Agreement can do nothing to

change the situation as regards extradition. On that point Mr Justice Walsh's ruling is definitive. The Irish partners are members of an executive acting under the authority, and within the limitations, of a written constitution. They are not entitled to "enhance extradition", beyond the limits of the Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the Republic.

The court made clear on Tuesday just how narrow those limits are.

The two decisions of the Supreme Court are ideologically linked, and the link is juridically legitimate. IRA men are to be exempt from extradition where the objective of their offences is "to secure Irish unity", which is logical when one considers that "Irish unity" and "the reintegration of the national territory" are precisely the same thing. Thus the IRA is working, in its own

way, for the achievement of something which the Supreme Court has found to be "a constitutional imperative", binding on all citizens of the Republic.

The British government has made the mistake of assuming that the constitutional claim of the Republic over Northern Ireland is somehow inert or tacitly abandoned. These two decisions of the Supreme Court made clear, however, that the constitutional claim is very much alive, and so conditions the whole operation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The procedures of that Agreement should now be used to convey a clear message from the British partner to the Irish: that in the light of the Supreme Court's decisions, the Agreement is inoperable as long as Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution remain in force in their present form.

Constitutional amendment is an attainable objective, both legally and politically. Legally it can be done by a simple referendum. Politically, all parties in the Republic - with the exception of Mr Haughey's Fianna Fail - have long favoured amendment of Articles 2 and 3 by the substitution of some kind of aspiration for a unity of people for the naked claim to jurisdiction over territory. If Mr Haughey agrees to the change, a referendum amending those Articles would carry by a large majority. And such a referendum would greatly improve the whole atmosphere in the Republic in relation to the IRA.

This week Mr Haughey ruled out a review of Articles 2 and 3. He will continue to rule it out as long as his partners in the Anglo-Irish Agreement fail to make it a condition of the continued operation of the Agreement. If he has to choose between the Agreement and Articles 2 and 3, he will start thinking seriously - for the first time - about those articles. And it is in the interest of all in these islands, with the exception of the IRA, that he should be made to think seriously about them.

Abba Eban argues that Israel's only chance lies in shared sovereignty and territory, not in annexation

A tale of two nations

Conventional wisdom is a courteous phrase denoting adherence to inert ideas long after they have proved false. In Middle Eastern diplomacy, this "wisdom" tells us that it is easier to make progress in "short steps" than by projecting large visions. This view dominated official American diplomacy in 1988 when the Bush-Baker administration took office. The United States joined Mr Yitzhak Shamir in developing what they exaggeratedly call a "peace process".

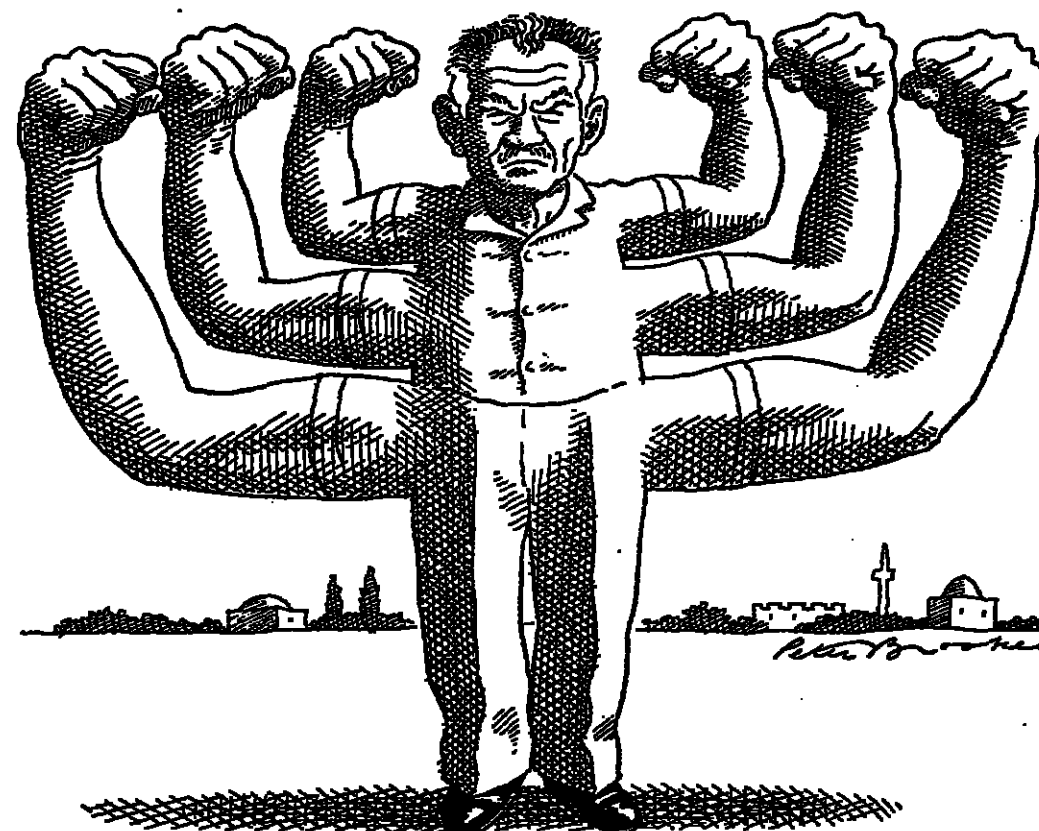
This was to be based on avoiding the four central questions: the location of secure boundaries for Israel, the status and identity of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, who will eventually rule those Arab populated territories, and the structural relations between the Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians who inhabit the territories of the former Palestine Mandate. At the same time vast efforts were invested by the US in the "short steps" that were supposed to be more responsive to conciliation. The "peace process" was reduced to the idea of electing a few Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to negotiate with Israel. The Israeli Labour Party was persuaded to be satisfied with this miniature "peace process", although its own platform advocated a broader principle of "territories for peace", which is

also the unanimous consensus.

US representatives do not deny that American policy is now defined by what is acceptable to an Israeli prime minister whose devotion to an uncompromisingly annexationist policy was proclaimed before and after every visit to Washington. Mr Baker went to unusually patient lengths to satisfy Likud sensitivities. He agreed that Palestinian representatives had to be "satisfactory" to Israel. This meant that we could choose our own team and then virtually choose our adversary's team.

The US, powerfully supported by Egypt, even persuaded the PLO to conceal itself under the neutral name "Palestinians". With all these formulas and fig leaves in place, it now appeared that there would soon be Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, but at the decisive stage, Mr Shamir decided to break the coalition with Labour, to dismiss its leaders and to end the 10-month peace process before any of its ambitions was fulfilled.

The dismissal of the Labour ministers signifies that Israeli democracy is in deeper trouble than at any time previously. It is as though after the Second World War Churchill had dismissed Attlee and all his colleagues from the National Government in order to hold an election in an atmosphere more favourable to his own party.



Mr Shamir now understands that an election in the West Bank and Gaza is incompatible with his ideology of an undivided Land of Israel under exclusive Jewish rule. He is in retreat from his own initiative. An election of Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza has a soothing procedural sound, but in practice it would dismantle the entire system and fabric of Israeli rule in the territories. Palestinians would be free to say what they like, to display their emblems, to celebrate their leaders, to assemble freely. None of this is possible today. An election would be a long step toward disengagement from Israeli rule.

Mr Shamir, who opposed the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the withdrawal from Lebanon, the Hussein-Peres agreement for a

Jordanian-Palestinian solution, Secretary of State Shultz's friendly peace plan, and even the return of an inconsequential land on Egyptian soil in Taba, is a sincere territorialist. If the first crucial opportunity of a breakthrough Israeli-Palestinian relations is not to be wasted, leadership of Israel will have to pass to other hands. If some of us think that a West Bank election is too narrow to be called a peace process, Mr Shamir found it too great a risk.

The United States must belatedly understand that there is no hope of progress by short steps without knowing the destination toward which they should be taken. The American illusion that peace is most likely to emerge from a broadly based Israeli government with the Likud in the centre is in collapse.

Israel's only chance of peace, social harmony, regional order, democratic integrity and international understanding lies in a return to the policy of its founding fathers, who understood that sovereignty and territory in the Israeli-Palestinian area must be shared by two people, not monopolized by one. Since Israeli security and sovereignty are not going to be compromised, the West Bank and Gaza are the only arena in which Palestinian ideas can find practical expression.

There is no political structure in the world marked by such a total discontinuity as democratic Israel and the territory and population under Israeli military rule. Neither of these two human worlds seeks harmony with the other through any compromise of its separate nature. Our land is a land of two histories, two tongues, two faiths, two national

dreams, two identities. Duality is written so sharply into the very texture of the land that any unitary solution which subjects one nationalism to total domination by the other is bound to be explosive and morally fragile.

The forces in Israel available for such a re-awakening are more impressive than they have appeared to be during the suffocations of the coalition regime. Over a million Israelis voted in the last election for platforms based on a substantially Arab destiny for the West Bank and Gaza; this was more than the number that voted for annexationist solutions.

Last month when the Labour mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, declared that "the West Bank and Gaza are a millstone around Israel's neck", and the Likud mayor of Tel Aviv, "Tchitchik" Lahat, declared that "Israel should negotiate with the PLO", they struck a large chord of consent. Hundreds of Israeli former generals and brigadiers have expressed agreement.

Israeli mainstream security experts grouped in Tel Aviv University's Centre for Strategic Studies suggested last year that "Israeli security can be maintained through continued military deployment but without physical control over all of the territories and all their Palestinian inhabitants." It is in these arenas of lucidity, not in the annexationist wilderness that American and European diplomacy should exert its healing influence. Europe, which has pioneered the concept of balance between separate sovereignty and regional integration, can serve Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians best by proclaiming its own example. It is only in a context of institutionalized regional co-operation that each of these three harassed nations can find its individual salvation.

The author, a leading member of the Israeli Labour Party, was Foreign Minister, 1966-74.

Why Mrs Thatcher should feel secure

Ronald Butt says Tories who want change have not considered the effect

Three Sunday newspapers have found that about a quarter of all Tory MPs would like Mrs Thatcher to stand down before the general election. In fact, the proportion who would like to see a change at the top, if only it could be accomplished smoothly and by a wave of a wand, may well be higher than a quarter. Not a few Tories who have fully supported Mrs Thatcher's past policies now fear that, with the Government's present difficulties, her continued leadership may put her own achievements at risk.

But it is one thing to wish that something could come to pass and quite another to accept the likely consequences of trying to make it happen if these seem likely to be counter-productive.

It is true enough that the Tories have had a pretty ruthless way of dealing with their leaders in past times of danger. Thus, Mr Heath was challenged and overthrown by Mrs Thatcher just as he himself had been elected after Sir Alec Douglas-Home had been convinced that the party wanted him to go.

But there are fundamental differences between Mrs Thatcher's

position now and those of Sir Alec and Mr Heath when they were displaced. When she ousted Sir Alec, the incumbent leaders were in opposition, with two election defeats behind them. She, in contrast, is in government with a record of three election victories.

Moreover, under both Sir Alec and Mr Heath the party had come increasingly to believe that the end of a road had been reached. In Lord Home's case, there was the feeling that the then Mr Harold Wilson must be opposed by a figure with more democratic political responses than could be expected from a former 14th earl. Under Mr Heath, the Conservatives had seemed trapped by the post-war neo-Keynesian consensus and by the attempt to escape from inflation by the *dogma* of pay and prices policy. Mrs Thatcher had a real difference of policy on which to appeal against him.

Not least, though it may seem fair to remove a leader in opposition after two general

election defeats, it hardly seems reasonable to get rid of one still in power and with her record of victories. To do so would smack of panic and appear to be an admission of policy failure. Besides, changing the leader in opposition provides a transition of several years without the burdens of power, during which the new leader can get used to the job, and the party and the public can get used to him.

So Mrs Thatcher's position now should be compared not with those of her two immediate predecessors but with that of Churchill, Eden and Macmillan who each resigned when the party was in power. Yet, even so, her case is again different.

For one thing, it was essentially age or illness which drove out all three, though Eden and Macmillan were also under political pressure. Moreover, it was clear in each case who would succeed or from which group the successor would come. It was accepted (as when Churchill went, Eden sat for Huntingdon when I was Isle of Ely, "You met him

plainly only two candidates, Rab Butler and Harold Macmillan. Nobody in the Cabinet can have been in the least surprised when Lord Salisbury asked them, as each left the room, "Well, which is it, Wab or Hawdell?"

Again, when Macmillan resigned, it was either going to be Butler (if the Macmillan faction could not stop him, which they did) or another from a small group of senior Cabinet ministers, all *palpabile*, including Lord Hailsham, Iain Macleod, Reginald Maudslayi, and (the dark horse), the Earl of Home who got the job and disclaimed his peerage. No policy differences were involved; it was a matter of taking a view of personalities through Cabinet and party consultations.

But no clear group of claimants heirs is apparent in the Cabinet now. Indeed, it is a complaint against Mrs Thatcher that she has made it hard for near equals to flourish in her sight. Her most senior colleague, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has been bypassed, and the succession would be claimed

by a wide group, only two of whom are tried Cabinet ministers, Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Douglas Hurd. The rest, most notably Mr John Major and Mr Chris Patten are still to be tested.

If there were a vacancy, they would probably all compete, and the spectacle of perhaps half a dozen candidates vying with each other inside the Cabinet would hardly inspire conviction in the party's unity - especially when the strongest potential candidate, Mr Michael Heseltine, stands outside the Cabinet, apparently questioning much of the recent line of policy.

Mr Heseltine has great political acumen and commands party audiences. But nobody within the Cabinet who considers himself a potential candidate will risk ousting Mrs Thatcher for Mr Heseltine's benefit. Besides, a majority of the party is not ready to accept his insistence on European political integration or to see the Thatcherite revolution apparently questioned by Mr Heseltine's success. His candidature at this stage

would split the party grievously, which is doubtless why he declares himself not to be a candidate this side of the general election.

The paradox of the Conservative position is this. There are many in the party who would like to see something like a new beginning, which could be signalled by a new leader, with existing policies modulated to a new key in response to challenges significantly different from those originally faced by Mrs Thatcher.

On the other hand, reason tells them that, short of an unpredictable crisis, Mrs Thatcher will stay, that nobody in the Cabinet will move against her to the possible benefit of Mr Heseltine, and that Mr Heseltine himself knows better than to risk a challenge that could divide the party. In these circumstances, the Government can only go on playing with the hand it has dealt itself, hoping that the game can be won by 1992. Talking about removing Mrs Thatcher is no help, unless perhaps it persuades her to use her strong political instinct to lead the Tories into new courses herself.

On a caper to Cape Town



CLEMENT FREUD

— it occurred to me that my National Hunt Festival was going to be confined to one day, six races. I therefore determined to pack into this outing the passion, energy and investment usually deployed on the full meeting. I had several moral victories in respect of which I should be getting sizeable bills from Messrs Ladbrokes, Hills, Coral and Kinghorn.

An urgent message to ring my son in New York. I ring my son in New York. "Listen, Dad," he said, "you know John Major?"

I explained that he was my parliamentary neighbour in Cambridgeshire, succeeded David Renton, sat for Huntingdon when I was Isle of Ely. "You met him

with me in Ely Cathedral at a dedication ceremony; we have a photo of the three of us marching past Prince Philip."

My son asked what sort of speaker was John Major.

"All right as a speaker," I replied. "Was a whisp for so many years that we did not hear much of him until lately; unlikely to have an audience rolling in the aisles, but decent and honourable; only real drawback is that Tebbit tipped him for high office. If your bank needs an after dinner speaker, Nigel Lawson will be much more entertaining if rather more expensive. Why are you asking me all this?"

That is the question I should

have put before. It appears that City bookmakers are quoting odds against the length of the Budget speech. You can buy at 73 minutes, sell at 71, and my son wants to know whether I would advise him to go long or short. "A few interruptions," the Deputy Speaker getting angry, someone grabbing the mace, a helpful question or three... Budget speeches are not going to be much shorter than 70 minutes and with a fair wind they could be substantially longer."

"Are you in good form?" asked my son.

I had to admit that but for Bech Road, Cash is King, Jelpe and one or two other quadrupeds I was in fair shape, was off to Johannesburg later this afternoon and no, I am not; there are other people to meet in South Africa and anyway he is in Sweden.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

IN NEED OF AMENDMENT

The history of Northern Ireland's terrorism extradition cases argued over by the British and Irish governments during the last 20 years clearly illustrates the limits of the meeting of minds on security issues.

Irish history has sown a deep suspicion at all levels in the republic that there can ever be justification for handing suspects back to Britain. It took several years of terrorism north and south of the border in the early 1970s for a debate to begin in the republic about whether a "political offence" exemption should allow a suspect to avoid extradition on the grounds of political purpose or motive.

Subsequently, there has been a sea change in the attitudes of the Irish judiciary. It was brought about by the cases which forced increasingly precise definitions of the elastic notion of "political" exemption; the evidence of the crimes themselves contributed to public support for narrowing the scope of the exemption. The republic joined the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which removed the exemption altogether for a list of the most serious offences.

In the past three years, however, there have been three setbacks. The republic's extradition legislation has been amended in such a way as to make the speedy execution of warrants harder. New grounds for refusing extradition were introduced in the Patrick Ryan case by the Attorney-General who claimed that the improbability of a fair trial in the United Kingdom justified his not taking proceedings. This week, the Irish Supreme Court released two escapees from the Maze prison, citing the danger of assault by prison officers in Northern Ireland.

How does the position appear once the legal technicalities are set aside? During a mass escape in which a prison officer was fatally stabbed and several of his colleagues very seriously injured, two men got away. One was serving 18 years for the attempted murder of a UDR man; an assault by an eight-man team which subjected the victim and his family to what the trial judge described as an ordeal "almost beyond description." The second was

serving 18 years for possession of two rifles used to shoot a soldier in both legs. Both are eventually arrested in the republic and extradition warrants are served. Meanwhile, an official inquiry and a civil court case have established that assaults took place on republican prisoners after the Maze escape. The highest court in the republic releases both men.

This may be in accordance with the law but it is not in accordance with the needs of justice or common sense. Extradition between friendly states does not depend on each state's requiring the other to be perfect. It requires a minimum level of trust which should rest on the standards of justice and accountability common to both, but no guarantees will be available that nothing will ever go wrong.

No prison system in the world can offer that assurance. Accountability in the case of the assaults at the Maze was plainly hard to achieve, but some of the truth was eventually forced into the open. Perhaps Mr Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, who was yesterday suggesting that the Northern Ireland prison service might adjust itself to the requirements of the Supreme Court, would like to tour the facilities and make some more specific proposals. The Anglo-Irish Agreement has uses separate from extradition, but any reasonable observer might ask why the Irish Government pays such heed to an agreement with a state whose prison service and courts fall so short of its own standards.

The question of political exemption, a more fundamental issue of principle, may now have to be fought all over again. One might have hoped that the last word on this had been spoken by an Irish Chief Justice who said in 1982: "The judicial authorities on the scope of such offences have in many respects been rendered obsolete by the fact that modern terrorist violence... is often the antithesis of what could reasonably be regarded as political..." It now appears that common sense has been rolled back. The republic's judiciary is properly independent, but its function is to interpret laws. Those laws should be amended to reflect the Chief Justice's dictum.

A CARING COMMUNITY

The Government's defeat, on an amendment to the National Health Service and Community Care Bill on Tuesday, is another warning that the public is uneasy about the way community care has been implemented. The closure of large residential institutions has not yet led to an equivalent provision of services in the community. The amendment was an attempt to prevent yet another group of vulnerable people being discharged from institutions into a community ill-equipped to receive them.

There was some logic, nevertheless, in the Government's refusal to sign what could amount to a blank cheque for the residential care of elderly people. The Secretary of State for Social Security, Mr Tony Newton, now has time to find a solution to the technical problem identified in the amendment, but he should not ignore the more general misgivings which the rebellion by 33 Conservative MPs represented.

It is right that the community should where necessary provide the means for the elderly and infirm to live out their lives in dignity and comfort. Those same people will have contributed by taxes and national insurance, to the support of the generations before them. Even without such considerations they would still have a call upon society as a matter of social justice.

Many of them — or their families on their behalf — prefer to take advantage of nursing and residential homes provided privately by profit-making or self-sustaining enterprises. It is far better that they should be cared for in that way than that they should occupy beds in old large mental hospitals, and far better that they should not become intolerably burdensome to their own families. The notion that families would automatically be able to receive many old people who were no longer to be catered for in large institutions has always been unrealistic.

The amendment would have committed the

Government to meet the whole cost of such private residential care, however large, by means of what is called income support. The Commons was given a warning that if it does not do so, private homes might feel obliged to levy charges which are beyond the reach of many of their residents, income support notwithstanding. Many of them, it appears, have started to do so already. As a result those unable to pay, and unable to close the gap by assistance from family or other sources, could face eviction. In some cases, the residential home itself will be driven to offer a two-tier service, a more meagre one for those relying wholly on state support, a better one for those able to meet a higher fee.

The Government could clearly not commit itself to meet whatever level of charges private residential homes cared to set. That would be an invitation to profiteering at the taxpayers' expense. The supporters of the amendment demonstrated that their hearts were in the right place, but they were less on target with their remedy. Whatever slips by party whips may have explained the odd result in the House — an amendment carried in substance, but then defeated procedurally — it was, in the circumstances, a curiously appropriate result, and just the right message for Mr Newton to ponder.

He would be advised not to ponder much further, however, the fear he expressed in the House that too generous a commitment to residential care for the elderly might encourage more of them into institutions, when they ought to be looked after in their families. He called it a "perverse incentive effect." The family care of old people should always be freely chosen by those concerned — it is not the job of the Government to exert pressure on them, by manipulation of the social security regulations, into doing so against their will. That way lies family discord and misery.

DEADLOCK ON CYPRUS

The announcement by Mr Rauf Denktaş that he will seek re-election next month as president of the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is unlikely to relieve the gloom south of the border. Less than two weeks since bringing the Cyprus talks in New York to an early and abrupt conclusion Mr Denktaş wants a new mandate for his policies. The probability is that he will get it, thus strengthening his negotiating hand. A Cyprus settlement now looks a distant prospect.

Much had been hoped for from the open-ended talks. They were held under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, but they broke down almost as soon as they began when (according to the Secretary-General) Mr Denktaş introduced a new and unexpected element. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, supported by the United States and Britain, has been pursuing a federal solution for the island based on the principle of "one state, two communities". What Mr Denktaş did was to change the terminology, insisting on two "peoples" not "communities", each of which should have the right to self-determination.

The distinction is much more than semantic. Though the Greek and Turkish Cypriots are close to an agreement on some points they remain fundamentally divided over the nature of the intended federal compromise. The Greek Cypriots want a strong central Nicosia government, with the separate Greek and Turkish halves retaining powers similar to those of large municipal authorities. Mr Denktaş, however, aspires to a more complete bizonal arrangement with each zone enjoying virtual autonomy.

Their other quarrels stem from those differing concepts. Greek Cypriots, for instance, place great emphasis on what they call the "three freedoms": the right to travel, live

and own property anywhere. They also demand the withdrawal of 27,000 Turkish troops from the north and the return of 50,000 Turkish settlers to the mainland. These demands are not unreasonable in themselves, but they appear to induce Turkish feelings of insecurity and fears of being dominated from the south.

The inference which one may draw from the New York meeting, however, is that Mr Denktaş still has a very different vision of Cyprus from that still cherished by Greek Cypriots. How it is that the negotiations opened without anyone being prepared for this development is unclear. Either the groundwork had not been properly completed or Mr Denktaş hardened his position at the last moment.

There are no plans to arrange another session, despite Security Council support for the Secretary-General. Further progress is clearly impossible in advance of the Turkish Cypriot elections. It looks as if the answer lies in Ankara. Mr Denktaş called there before and after the meeting in New York and apparently received full backing for his stand. As Northern Cyprus depends heavily on Turkey it is inconceivable that he could act without it.

A compromise on Cyprus seems unlikely until Turkey has decided to promote one. It may be that the island is now seen in Ankara as an increasingly high-value card in its patient attempt to win entry to the European Community. Turkey has to some extent lost a bargaining counter through the erosion of the military threat from Moscow. Its strategic value has in consequence gone down, but it holds the key to a settlement on Cyprus. It is Ankara which must now be persuaded to turn it.

Implications of Irish court rulings

From Mr C. B. Lewis

Sir, The Irish courts yesterday decided not to return two convicted criminals to Northern Ireland to complete their sentences, apparently because of the fear of intimidation by prison staff in the Maze prison. There is one change to the law which could solve the problem.

Courts could be empowered either to return the criminal to the country where he committed the crime or to require him to serve his sentence in a prison in the state dealing with the extradition request. This would deal with any fears about possible mistreatment if the criminal were returned. It would ensure that the criminal did complete his sentence rather than being released.

In the case of Northern Ireland and the Republic, legislation already exists providing that the courts of one jurisdiction may try people accused of committing a crime in the other jurisdiction. It would be a logical extension of that principle to enable a person convicted in one jurisdiction to serve his sentence in the prisons of the other jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. LEWIS,
Selwyn College,
Cambridge.

From Mr David Trimble
Sir, Further to Concor Cruise O'Brien's excellent article on the Anglo-Irish Agreement (March 10), the Irish Supreme Court concluded its judgement by saying "looking at the Agreement in its totality and looking at the entire

scheme and trust of the (Irish) constitution" the Agreement was "a clear attempt to resolve the position with regard to the reintegration of the national territory".

In other words, in the view of the highest court in Ireland, which view is by virtue of the Irish Constitution binding on the Irish Government, uniting Ireland is the object of the Anglo-Irish process.

It would be foolish of the British Government to ignore this judgement. To do so would be seen as acquiescing in the Irish view, to the encouragement of terrorism and the dismay of the British people of Ulster. The only honourable course is to insist on an amendment of the Irish Constitution, especially as the British Government claimed at the time that the Agreement contained a *de jure* recognition by the Irish Republic of the status of Northern Ireland.

The Irish court has made it clear that this is not so and has falsified the basis on which Britain entered the Agreement. It has also vindicated the Ulster Unionist insistence that amendment of the Irish Constitution is an essential prerequisite for harmony and co-operation in Ireland and Ulster.

Once again Unionists have displayed a better understanding of Irish republicanism than politicians in London.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID TRIMBLE
(Honorary Secretary),
Ulster Unionist Council,
3 Clengall Street,
Belfast.

Calling Harrods to account

From Mrs Elizabeth Jesnik

Sir, May I, as a member of the British public and an occasional shopper at Harrods, assure you that Mr Fayed's misfortunes in being the son of a primary school teacher of humble origins and not having been raised by a British nanny cause me no distress.

On the contrary, the career that emerges from the colourful account given in your pages (March 8) could well be viewed in many of its aspects as a laudable example of entrepreneurial skill of the kind often to be found praised these days and worthy of Samuel Smiles himself.

If the allegations are correct, Mr Fayed would appear to have been amusingly adept at constructing a persona and past history likely to appeal to a particularly unattractive vein of British snobbery.

How many men engaged in public life have changed their names for purposes of aggrandisement or concealment? How many can say that they have come by their resources by means that fully bear investigation? If this man has been guilty of the misdemeanours described no doubt they will be investigated in the proper quarters. It is the *Times* to engage in this act of pillory on its front page.

Mr Fayed did not put in a bid for a bishopric — merely to become the owner of a large shop. Yours truly,
ELIZABETH JESNIK,
79 Woodward Road,
Dulwich, SE22,
March 9.

Polls of straw

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)

Sir, The recent media concentration on the position of the Prime Minister (leading article, March 12) is based upon the amazing revelation that only 75 per cent of Conservative MPs now support her. This is apparently founded on three straw polls conducted by parliamentary lobbyists.

I was sidled up to by one of them last week and flatteringly told I had been selected as one of a hundred to give my opinion. I was not told which shade of opinion in

the party I was considered statistically to represent.

Along with 80 per cent of my colleagues who supported the Prime Minister as leader I gave my opinion in a secret ballot only last November. That did not rely on personal estimates of statistical weighting of shades of party opinion or any such nonsense.

Eighty per cent support in a real poll then? 75 per cent in straw polls now? What on earth is all the fuss about? Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARTIN,
House of Commons,
March 12.

Art in the dark

From Mr Kenelm Digby-Jones

Sir, When I was a student at the Courtauld Institute many years ago Professor Anthony Blunt told me that, to visit architectural sites or museums, one needed three things: a pair of binoculars, a torch and someone who knew much more about the subject than oneself.

On Sunday, on a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum's European Art 1600-1800 collection I followed his advice. The binoculars were useful to identify the newly and splendidly cleaned

statues on the outside of the building. Once in the department, without the torch we would have had to turn back. Some objects and cases were not lit at all; most of them, with their identifying labels, so dimly lit as to strain the eye; a Rembrandt drawing was in the pitch dark.

It seems a pity, as not all the visitors to the department had the benefit of Anthony Blunt's advice. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
KENELM DIGBY-JONES,
5 Dalmeny House,
Thurloe Place, SW7,
March 12.

Poll tax disquiet

From Sir Hector Laing

Sir, Ronald Burt ("Tories' rough-shod error", March 8) objects to a flat-rate community charge while completely overlooking the highly progressive way in which local government is financed through taxation.

Roughly 50 per cent of local government is financed out of general taxation. Similarly some £3 billion of general taxation — equivalent to 2p in the pound — has been set aside to ease in the community charge. And the relief for the one-in-four charge payers who will qualify for help of up to 80 per cent of the community charge similarly comes from the general taxpayer.

As the top 10 per cent of earners contribute 40 per cent of income tax it will be seen that the method of financing local government, including the community charge, is highly progressive and related to ability to pay. In fact, the households with the highest earnings are

probably contributing 15 times as much as the lowest income groups. Yours sincerely,
HECTOR LAING,
High Meadows, Windsor Road,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire,
March 12.

From Mr Keith Robinson
Sir, The fact that his distance from politics limits his understanding of the Government's position on the moral case for poll tax may not be the only matter clouding the issues for the Bishop of Bath and Wells (March 13).

The premise for the bishop's moral case seems to be that the well-off should by this strand of taxation provide services for the poor and disadvantaged. He also appears to assume that not making ends meet is the prerogative of the latter, as though somehow the

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5946.

Funding crisis in hospital care

From Dr Robert Elkeles and others

Sir, Your report of March 8, highlights the crisis in hospital care in London. This is borne out here, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where already we have 75 beds closed. In order to save a further £1.6 million, it is proposed that the hospital should close to all non-emergency admissions for six weeks during the summer and a further two weeks at Christmas. A further 12 beds are threatened with closure.

Already many of our patients who need urgent admissions are turned away by directing them to the emergency bed service, or they may be kept waiting for many hours in the casualty department until a bed is found. Booked admissions cancelled before admission, which were around 40 per month in September, 1989, had risen to 127 per month by November.

The crisis which faces us stems from the underfunding of pay awards and price inflation by central government and by the sudden withdrawal of "interim relief" monies given in 1987 to ease the special problems of central London. The Government, of course, deny underfunding and blame poor management for the financial problems. It seems inconceivable that all the central London districts are badly managed yet they are all deeply in crisis. When all are seriously affected one suspects a central problem. Indeed, our own district has an exemplary record in cost improvement savings over recent years.

The Government also claim that the solution to these problems will stem from the proposed reforms of the National Health Service.

Even if these prove beneficial, their effects lie in the future while the crisis is here now. In the short run, the reforms are worsening the situation as managers attempt to deal not only with this crisis but also with the mass of directives from the Department of Health in implementing the reforms. Certainly substantial sums of money

have been provided for this latter exercise but that has no impact on patient care now.

The only immediate solution we see is more money, with the restoration of "interim relief". For the future, we need proper funding, not random squeezing of the market place.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ELKELES
(Consultant physician),
ROLFE BIRCH (Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
DEBORAH CUNNINGHAM
(Consultant radiologist),
FRANK LOEFFLER (Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist),
C. M. TONKS
(Consultant psychiatrist),
St Mary's Hospital,
Fried Street, W2,
March 12.

From Sir Douglas Black
Sir, The wounds which the Government is inflicting on itself through the student loan scheme, and even more so the poll tax affect only sections of the electorate (which have duly noted them). They are trivial in comparison with what is threatened for the National Health Service, which potentially affects us all.

Under Government proposals, necessary transfers of patients from family doctor to hospital, and between hospitals themselves, will be impeded by a clumsy contractual system employing armies of accountants. But much worse than that, which is "merely" wasteful, family doctors will be given a financial inducement, through capitation fees, to take on more patients when the real requirement is for them to give more time to fewer people.

I agree with Mr Clarke that doctors will not shun patients who are likely to need expensive care — but why tempt them to do so by encouraging them to be budget holders? Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS BLACK,
The Old Forge,
Duchess Close,
Whitchurch-on-Thames,
Reading, Berkshire.

Smacking children

From Mrs Penelope Leach and Mr Peter Newell

Sir, Your contributor, Lynette Burrows (First Person, March 12) dismisses the comprehensive international research linking smacking with bullying in childhood, anti-social behaviour in adolescence, domestic violence, and criminality in adult life as "self-justifying surveys".

She dismisses those of us who are campaigning to end the right to smack as "child-care professionals", contrasted with "the true professional" in the home. She even believes that the High Court judge who upheld a social services decision to place the children of a smacking mother on the child abuse "at risk" register has "deferred" to Epoch.

But we are parents too, and our influence does not extend to the

High Court. What the judgement by the President of the Family Division has indicated, in the case to which Ms Burrows refers (report, February 27) is that the days of legalised smacking are numbered. Our free leaflet, *The No Smacking Guide to Good Behaviour*, is simply an attempt to answer the call from the many parents who do smack but wish they did not; to provide them with practical advice on avoiding smacking — and ending up with better behaved children too.

If the decision to ban smacking was to be made on intellectual grounds alone, it would have been made by now. Yours faithfully,
PENELOPE LEACH,
PETER NEWELL
(Co-ordinators, Epoch — End Physical Punishment of Children),
77 Holloway Road, N7,
March 12.

Swedish interiors

From Mr Robin Butler

Sir, I was surprised by the reported amazement of Sotheby's experts (Saleroom, March 7) at the condition of the Turner water-colour of Hampton Court Palace, which had come from a Swedish summer house.

On visits to Sweden with the Furniture History Society I have found the condition of Swedish interiors to be quite remarkable for their fine state of preservation. I think this can be put down to the following reasons:

1. As most Swedes have summer and winter houses by tradition, they use each house much less. When vacating them, they tend to cover everything up and close the shutters, preserving the contents from ultra-violet light.
2. They don't have the equivalent of antiques roadshows, National Trust or other organisations promoting an interest in historic interiors. Thus they do not have hordes of visitors to houses, wearing out the fabric.
3. For centuries, the law of primogeniture obtained and collections therefore passed intact from generation to generation. Much damage is done when delicate items like water-colours are traded in the marketplace.

Maybe we have a lesson or two to learn from the Swedish heritage. Yours sincerely,
ROBIN BUTLER,
20 Clifton Road,
Bristol, Avon.

Church plate

From Mr L. Brace

Sir, I was most interested by Simon Tait's article on the Falstaff Cup (March 10) but must point out that the cup belongs to the church of St Magnus the Martyr.

It did, indeed, prior to 1831 belong to the vestry of St Michael, Crooked Lane, that church being demolished to make way for Rennie's London Bridge. St Michael was united with St Magnus and, of course, St Michael's plate, both secular and sacred, was lodged in the strongroom at St Magnus. The Falstaff Cup and St Michael's Bason now reside in St Paul's Treasury, on permanent loan from the rector, churchwardens, and parochial church council of St Magnus.

I shall, of course, be sending an order for a copy of the cup. Yours faithfully,
L. BRACE (Parish Clerk at St Magnus the Martyr),
181 Fentiman Road, SW8.

March thoughts

From Mr A. J. Blackburn

Sir, Now that direct flights have resumed between Britain and Argentina Michael Watkins' travel article on Patagonia (March 3) was timely. Having travelled independently to that remote but fascinating region last year, I can endorse his recommendation.

But, from knowledge acquired on the trip, I suspect that what he saw on the road from his cruise ship's harbour to Puento Turbio were not "a few loopy rabbits", as he calls them, but examples of the Patagonian hare (*Dolichotis patagonum*).

This attractive animal, endemic to the region, is found in groups and can be a disconcerting sight, particularly at night when the observer has had alcoholic refreshment, as it stands some 30 inches high and does not flee at once. Strictly, it is not a hare like the European hare at all but a byrrax, well adapted to the plateaux of this part of the sub-continent.

It has powerful hind legs, ending not in paws but in a unique type of hoof capable of propelling it in a jump of 5 or 6 feet, and of packing a formidable kick which, if I was a Patagonian hare, I would use to good effect on the next travel correspondent to identify me as a "loopy rabbit".

Yours faithfully,
A. J. BLACKBURN,
Epworth House,
25 City Road, EC1,
March 12.

SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Defection cost his family dear

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

Somewhere inside Richard Denton's *Born in the USSR*, on BBC 2 last night, was still more intriguing documentary struggling to get out.

Ostensibly, this was an account of the Russian pianist and conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy returning to his homeland last November for the first time since his defection to the West 26 years ago. The homecoming concert with the Royal Philharmonic was set up as a feature of the new glasnost, and was to be followed by a political debate which allowed Ashkenazy to look through Gorbachev's eyes at the changing Gorbachev scene.

But a brief initial interview with Ashkenazy's father suggested an altogether different and more personal scenario. In the father's view, his son's defection led directly to the mother's death of a heart attack, and the family suffered for two decades from association with the musician who under the old regime was classified as a traitor to his homeland.

Brief shots of his sister and her family beaming nervously through the official homecoming receptions gave no real hint of the trauma the Ashkenazy family must have suffered, and that would surely have been the more unusual story.

Instead we got a ritual run around the usual "how long can it last?" questions about perestroika, with Ashkenazy in debate with Andrei Gavrilov. He is another Tchaikovsky Prize-winner and in many ways Ashkenazy's younger self, but one who has a much easier and richer life in the post-glasnost Soviet Union.

Clearly the musical community in Moscow is uncertain about how long Gorbachev can hold the centre ground at a time of renewed anti-Semitism and colonial rioting — "people don't want freedom of the Press, they want sausages," as one old friend put it. We left Ashkenazy back in his old country home, wondering whether to buy a nearby dacha but noting carefully that he will only continue to return to the Soviet Union so long as the situation remains open.

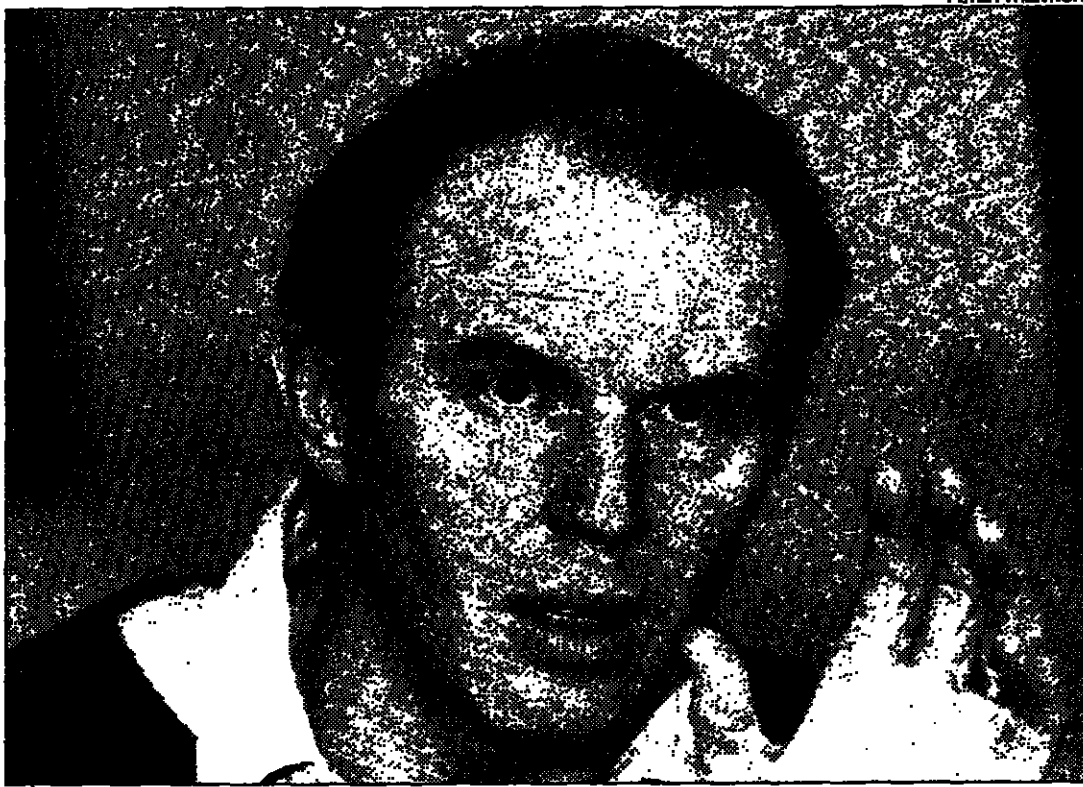
What the family really thought of his homecoming, or whether his Swiss-educated children will ever understand what their father and his family have been through in the name of exile were areas left maddeningly unspoken and unexplored.

On Channel 4, Malcolm Brinkworth for *Dispatches* told the story of Gerry O'Hanlon, who for 30 years has been a freelance agent for British intelligence, gathering information on IRA terrorists. O'Hanlon has now been totally reconstructed, and that is not of course his real name: behind the beard and the thick Guinness accent there doubtless lurks an elderly French woman with a slight limp.

The tales he had to tell made up a chilling catalogue of underground and undercover manoeuvres, with cross and double-cross in a sleazy selection of pubs which he first visited as an Irish condom-sungler in the middle 1950s. Now there is a career prospect you might never have considered for your children.

Tim Pigott-Smith, actor and artistic director of the touring Compass Theatre Company, talks to Jim Hiley

All the country's a stage . . .



Tim Pigott-Smith: incisive speaker of verse, now the unpaid leader of a company of RSC and NT veterans

In the early 1980s, classical drama looked likely to become the exclusive preserve of the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Financial constraints had placed the classics — especially those with large casts — beyond the reach of most regional repertory theatres. Shakespeare was expected to be the chief casualty.

But today, the theatrical map is criss-crossed by itinerant productions of large-cast classical plays. A crop of new companies is revivifying the old commercial touring venues. The regions are enjoying a Shakespeare boom.

Two factors lie behind this trend. Among audiences, a fresh appetite for demanding fare has emerged. The 1980s may have seen an upsurge of philistinism, but the theatre public began to weary of it well before the end of the decade. The companies, for their part, have managed to recruit top-drawer performers, who were seldom to be seen in the regions 10 years ago. Here, a decrease in lucrative television jobs has conspired with a growing alienation from the big national institutions.

"You rarely speak to actors leaving the National or RSC without some residual bitterness," says Tim Pigott-Smith, a veteran of both companies who now heads the Compass touring group. "The RSC, especially, has been a battlefield for directorial ambition. Performers feel used."

Actor-friendly organizations like Pigott-Smith's have scooped up the benefits. He claims that a National Theatre director told him recently: "You have a better company than us at the moment." Most of the leaders of the touring revival have done National service; all have worked at the RSC.

They include the Michaels Bogdanov and Pennington, whose English Shakespeare Company won huge acclaim for *The Wars of the Roses* and has just embarked on an ambitious programme of eight new productions over three years. Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance

sance group will return in June with *King Lear* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. And this week Compass has begun a 10-week tour of *Julius Caesar* at the Buxton Opera House.

The new companies have proved adept at raising sponsorship and high-profile patronage, of which Prince Charles's endorsement of Renaissance is the most striking example. But the secret of their success lies with the paying customers. Seventy per cent of Compass's income is generated at the box office. For the ESC, the figure is nearer 80 per cent.

Compass was founded by the late Sir Anthony Quayle in 1984. Two years ago, he invited Pigott-Smith to become joint artistic director — an unexpected move that now looks inspired. Pigott-Smith is best known for his performance as Captain Merrick in Granada TV's *The Jewel in the Crown*, but he is an incisive speaker of verse, with a gift for harnessing the least tractable roles — witness his superb *Leontes* at the National in 1988. His new-found role as actor-impresario reveals an unquestionable authority and daunting energy, though he says that negotiations with the Arts Council have brought home the need to refine his diplomatic skills.

Since Quayle's death last year, 43-year-old Pigott-Smith has been in sole charge of Compass. He made his debut with the company as director of the first major revival of Peter Shaffer's *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*; in *Julius Caesar*, he plays Brutus.

Pigott-Smith says Quayle bequeathed him invaluable reserves of goodwill. "Compass can ring up any theatre in the country, and they'll book us, even if they don't know what plays we'll be doing. We don't do 'safe' productions, but we do represent roots." But he confesses that, as yet, public enthusiasm for his company is not spread evenly across the nation, and he identifies a theatrical version of the north-south divide.

In an attempt to do better business in the north, he plans to open a base in Halifax this autumn. From here, Compass will travel to theatres throughout Yorkshire and adjacent counties. A production will be mounted especially for prisons, and the company will develop its ancillary programme of workshops for

young people and for the disabled. Tim Pigott-Smith's conversational style is a mix of Green Room and gentlemen's club. He would never lend his talent for television "voice-overs" to the Conservative Party, as did his predecessor, but he makes no secret of an old-fashioned nationalism which fuels his commitment to classical drama. "In Britain, people either take identity for granted or are not bothered about it. I hope we can interest a younger generation in what the past 400 years have to offer." Pigott-Smith's patriotism is such that he shuns high-earning foreign tours. "I'm interested in Britain. Let's serve the regions. I don't care about Utah."

Pigott-Smith admits that his zeal makes him "embarrassingly right" for the role of Brutus, in what he calls "the first of Shakespeare's great tragedies." "Like Brutus, I am an idealist. That's how you get people into battle. But his emotions are controlled by his philosophy. He is a thinker above all else, and capable of a weird self-deception. It's true that he is 'the noblest Roman of them all', but it's also the case that every major decision he takes turns out to be wrong."

Pigott-Smith will draw a salary while playing Brutus, but the artistic directorship is unpaid. He subsidizes it with "voice-overs" for the likes of Prudential, the NatWest, Duckham's and Ford, and with more taxing television work. In a new Anglia series, *The Chief*, which begins transmission next month, he plays a chief constable who grapples with such sensitive issues as freemasonry and prison riots.

Whatever controversy surrounds *The Chief*, Pigott-Smith is likely to remain immersed in Shakespeare and the exigencies of actor-management. "The crest of productivity is on the decline. Survival is now the name of the game." You feel that Compass will be among the survivors.

Strangely tentative

CONCERT

Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham Town Hall

Mahler has been in Simon Rattle's repertoire since his student days, and there was abundant evidence here of his keen feeling for the Mahlerian edge between fullness and delicacy as he wove his orchestra around Bernadette Greevy's voice in the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*: the climax of the third song was beautifully conjured, and made the high point of the whole cycle.

But Bruckner is much newer territory for him, and the performance of the Seventh Symphony that followed was one of those fascinating Rattle occasions when exciting possibilities are sometimes realized, sometimes just not achieved. On the positive side, the long melodies — those at the openings of the first and third movements, for instance — were modelled with a quite unusual finesse: minutely phrased and dynamically shaded without sacrificing the larger breath.

Another unusual and persuasive feature was the range and control of tone. No other orchestra in this country can produce as fine and steady a pianissimo as the City of Birmingham Symphony for Rattle, and this symphony provided opportunities for that stillness at moments of fall and expectancy. Similarly, Rattle and the CBSO can produce majestic, balanced fortissimos of unparalleled power, and at the climax of the slow movement it seemed that the Town Hall had been turned into a huge, clangorous bell. Again, this was the point that the whole slow movement, taken very generously, had been moving towards.

The sheer range of volume was also necessary to articulate the symphony, especially the first movement, as a wave motion of thrust and relaxation, with a quality of physical energy in the sound that made Bruckner seem, convincingly, as much a mechanical engineer as a meditative. Then at the opening of the finale, the more spasmodic gestures had an almost Mahlerian bite: a provocative suggestion that there is still some sense in the old pairing of the symphonic heavyweights.

Curiously, though, the thundering energy of the scherzo was not fully delivered, and there was something tentative about the culmination of the finale, no doubt because that movement lacked the formidable integrity of the adagio. The number of fluffs also suggested this was a staging-post towards something more completely colossal.

CABARET

Richard Morrison

Cantabile

Queen Elizabeth Hall

There appears to be an insatiable public appetite for twinkling young chaps singing whimsical witticisms in close harmony. Provided, that is, the performers follow two simple rules. The group's title must be a permutation or pun on certain code-words, like "King's", "Cantab", "light blue" or "scholars". Nothing snobbish, you understand; just a subtle reassurance that the boys did not meet at Willesden Poly.

Then, the artistic profile must be a mixture of college-chapel musicality and Footlights humour. Or, if talent does not stretch to that, of Footlights musicality and college-chapel humour. Cantabile's talent does stretch a long way, though not quite far enough to prove the wisdom of closing the first half with an impression of four lager louts being sick. Zippy stage routines, eclectic repertoire, amplification and keyboard backing: the close-harmony package has certainly become stickier in recent years.

Now it is a Michael Jackson song which jostles with the take-off of Beethoven. Cantabile glide from folk-song to soft-pop without any feeling of anachronism. Perhaps it only demonstrates that there is but a short step between "O Wally, Wally" and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

In fact the evening was overloaded with theatrical and plucky aspects. *Cats*, *Les Mis* and *Evita* were all featured. Including a memory lapse into "Memory" was a jolly jape; but it would take a saintly temperament than your correspondent's to appreciate the "guest star", Tim Rice, crooning "Wonderin' Star".

The real singers were first-rate; the arrangements classy. But Cantabile's humour, like democracy, needs a eternal vigilance. Following a properly barbed ecological song with a cheap gag like "the greenhouse effect can only be good for tomato growers" suggests that the performers are still a little green themselves.

Pavarotti panache has them purring

Last night at Covent Garden it seemed as though there was a parade of vintage Rolls-Royces on stage. Turn on the ignition and there was instant engagement; travel a few miles and the performance started purring comfortably.

Here in the revival of Donizetti's *Elisir d'amore* was Ingvar Wixell's Sergeant Belcore, no longer in the first flush of his military career, and Rolando Panerai's Dr Dulcamara, who has been selling elixirs for quite a few years. As for Adina, Daniela Mazzucato — and I do not wish to be ungallant — was taking the same part in this production in 1977.

However, the grandest Roller of them all was Nemorino: as everyone not west of Connemara must now know, Pavarotti is back in town. Donizetti's lovelorn farm labourer, who comes into an inheritance just at the right moment, is one of the best of the half dozen or so parts Luciano Pavarotti keeps in his theatre repertoire.

OPERA
John Higgins
L'elisir d'amore
Covent Garden

He has sung it around the world, frequently with Mazzucato, and it is exactly the right role with which to return to the Garden after the unhappy *Aida* of six years ago.

Pavarotti, who has clearly shed a few pounds this year, so that he bears quite a likeness as Nemorino to Giuseppe Sinopoli, slides neatly into John Copley's highly artificial production. His Nemorino is not a yokel with straw in his hair (as he was, if memory serves, in Paris), but a boy who is not as bright as those around him. Adina is the smartest person in the village, as Dulcamara ruefully observes.

Pavarotti, at last revealing (at least as far as London is concerned) his true sense of comedy, clutches his bottle of elixir as a

baby might cling onto its milk. The opening aria "Quanto e bella" was unduly nasal, but Pavarotti showed his real vocal form in the exchanges with Adina, culminating in "Adina, credimi", where Copley's staging begins to look unduly chill.

Act II brought out the best, with "Una furtiva lagrima" delivered with fine clarity and no false sentiment. The following duet, "Prendi per me sei libero" showed tenor and soprano matching one another note for note, and all credit to Pavarotti for not using *Elisir* as a tenor-only carriage.

Daniela Mazzucato's Adina was dry-toned in Act I, but later warmed to life and richness. The duet in Act II with Dulcamara had a proper Donizettian fizz about it — not always a hallmark of Rolls-Royces.

Rolando Panerai as the good Doctor, wearing the shocking purple greatcoat which has always been part of the production, took his own way with the tempi for most of the evening. However, he



Dulcamara (Rolando Panerai, left) and Nemorino (Luciano Pavarotti)

is the best of sparring partners given the right soprano.

Ingvar Wixell's Belcore may now lack sufficient swagger in the voice for a proper Belcore, but there is every hint that he could become an itinerant quack like Dulcamara one of these days. Marcello Panni, who has conducted *Elisir* with Pavarotti a

number of times before, made a decent impression in the pit without invoking a great deal of fizz.

There are plenty of laughs in the opera, not least in the orchestra where no notes are wasted. The late John Frickard was the master of this score — and he was a dab hand at steering Rolls-Royces.

Unlikely adaptation offers unexpected pleasure

THEATRE
Jeremy Kingston

Yours, Anne
Library, Manchester

There are gains and losses in this "music theatre" treatment of Anne Frank's diary. Music colours the emotional response of the eight hideaways, peened up for two years in an annex behind the Frank home, but it simplifies the slow, awkward, contradictory growth of Anne herself from bumptious child to strange adolescent, and this leaves us unprepared for her final declaration that the world is essentially good.

Her affirmation comes when their hideout has been discovered and they are waiting, frozen into stillness and silence in the half-dark, for the dreaded knock on the door. For this chilling dramatic suspense this is a finely imagined scene, and the director, Roger Haines, extends it to something like four minutes — an astonishing length of time entirely justified by the content and the context. Then the door becomes a rectangle of brilliant light and one by one they go out into it, though not to the freedom they have been imagining only a few moments before.

While Anne's affirmation may

relate to material the show leaves out, it does not connect with what we are shown, not even to the touchingly gentle exploration of sex, with Peter Van Daan, the only boy in the group (the show is based on an edition that restores passages previously excised).

That being said, the play and its music are elsewhere remarkably successful in capturing the look and the feel, above all the enforced languor, of their lives. Chris Kinman's set provides the eight individuals with islands of territory, a mattress, a table, an iron

bed and so on, to which they retreat from their confrontations to form still, sensitively lit, painterly tableaux that use the full width and depth of the stage.

The songs follow the opposite course, typically starting with a single voice and drawing in the whole company, and if Michael Cohen's music wists memories of *Fiddler*, Maria's songs from *West Side Story* and even Sondheim, he is drawing upon the Jewish tonalities they all are heirs to. The shapely, subtle lyrics by Eddi Fatterman sometimes replace rhyme with rhythm, as when four characters comment on their diet: "It's tasteless, it's food, it's awful, it's gone."

She can also turn out a neat marriage between rhyme and image. Anne sings, "Wouldn't Hollywood be grand/If I were there and Fred Astaire were holding my hand." You can almost hear in the words the music Cohen sets it to.

The excellent and strong-voiced cast includes Peter Reeves and Thelma Raby as Anne's parents, Emile Belcourt curiously underused as a fate arrival, and Sian Reeves, fierce and peaky, as Anne. So careful is the balance between voice and orchestra (half hidden behind laths above the stage) that every sung word is audible. That makes a good change in music theatre.



Touchingly gentle: Sian Reeves (Anne Frank) with Peter Van Daan

keyboard player Andrea Vickary. By his own standards, this was a routine performance. For most of the evening he was content to maintain a frenetic, Rollins-like dialogue with the drums. His dry, clipped tone drove the group at a steady speed, though the addition of another front-line player would have added colour.

It may have been the fault of the PA system, but Vickary's electric piano sounded too insubstantial for this setting. Given the circumstances, it would be unfair to judge Harris solely on this outing. Better, perhaps, to wait until the release of his imminent new album, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Slightly cramped style

books a big-league American player. The cause of the congestion on this occasion was Eddie Harris, the Chicago-born saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist, making his first London appearance for some years.

Originally a bop player, Harris veered off on his own individualist path in the early Sixties, enjoying massive commercial success with a recording of the theme from the film *Exodus*. Later, he became one of the first jazz musicians to dabble with rock

music and electronic paraphernalia. "Freedom Jazz Dance" remains his best-known composition, thanks in part to the Miles Davis cover version on *Miles Smiles*.

After all the experimentation, Harris now appears happy to return to his roots as a straight-ahead improviser. His opening set on Tuesday night consisted of a pugnacious run through the repertoire with a pick-up band which featured Wayne Batchelor (bass), Frank Tountou (drums) and the

JAZZ
Clive Davis

Eddie Harris
Bass Clef

Sardines night at the Bass Clef, with the audience crammed into the tiny music room and overflowing into the smoky bar. With my face pressed against a grubby leather jacket or two, I was left to ponder the merits of National No Smoking Day.

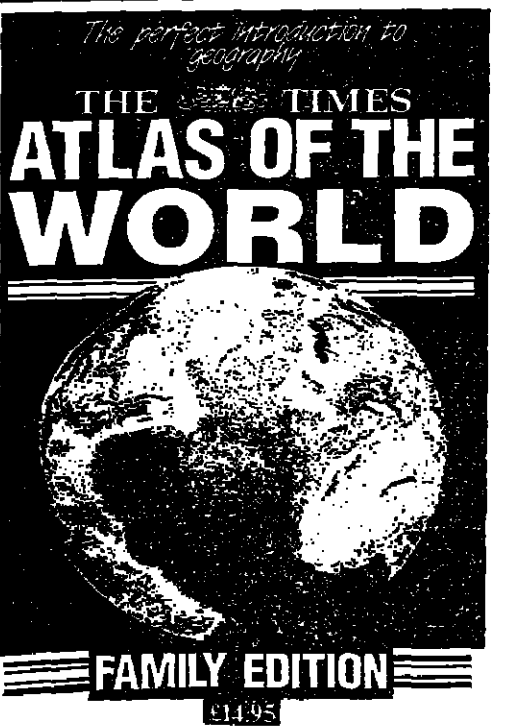
It was the kind of crush that arises almost every time the venue



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THE ARTS/ FILM

David Robinson on *Celia* from Australia, plus *Conquest of the South Pole*, *Weekend at Bernie's* and *Encounter at Raven's Gate*

Cold War kid is more than cute

A gifted and deceptively complex film, *Celia* (15, Cannon, Tottenham Ct Road, Metro) is by a new Australian filmmaker, 28-year-old Ann Turner. At first sight a nostalgic reminiscence of a far-off childhood summer, it imperceptibly turns to ironic reflection on the repressiveness of bureaucracy and political bigotry. At the same time, Turner shifts surprisingly, but confidently, back and forth from a realistic view of life in Melbourne suburbia to visions of Gothic horror.

Nine-year-old Celia's summer begins badly, with the death of her beloved granny. Things take a turn for the better when a jolly family moves in next door, and Celia gets a pet white rabbit.

These, though, are the 1950s, when Cold War attitudes permeate Australia no less than Europe. Celia's new friends are political fellow-travellers, and her father joins the rest of the community in harassing and finally driving them out.

The Red Menace finds horrific parallels in the Rabbit Menace that struck Australia at this time, resulting in the deliberate spread of the awful disease, myxomatosis. Celia's furry friend is confiscated when the government, with an excess of zeal to compensate for its helplessness, rounds up pet rabbits.

Popular protest swiftly forces officialdom to relent, and a memorable scene shows a horde of middle-class parents invading a bunny concentration camp in an effort to identify and rescue their children's pets.

These events are seen from the children's viewpoint. The war between Celia's little gang and a bunch of children indoctrinated by their parents with a WASPish terror of non-conformism, escalates to a brutality that is a physical metaphor for the psychological attitudes of the grown-ups.

The picture, though, is not naively schematic. The "communists" next door are liberals, but — after the Soviet invasion of Hungary — far from sure of their party loyalties. The witch-hunters are confused but not outright villains; they simply want to trust politicians, obey the law, and be convinced that they did not fight the Second World War in vain.

Celia's father has been conditioned to a hygienic terror of "vermin", animal or human.

Celia shows that a film can talk about serious ideas without compromising its power to intrigue and entertain. Photographed by Geoffrey Simpson (who is responsible for the remarkable images of the New Zealand film *The Navigator*), it is technically impeccable. Celia's nightmares, stimulated both by granny's death and by the fascinating monsters who figure in her school readers, are economically but effectively realized. Old newsreel of the war on Reds and Rabbits, seen on the family's ritual weekly visits to the pictures, evocatively convey the atmosphere of the times.

The adult performances — notably Victoria Longley and Marianne Falvey as the neighbour mothers whose mutual sympathy survives their husbands' political enmity — are unvaryingly excellent; though the children steal the film. Celia herself is a real star performance by Rebecca Smart, who is 12 but manages to look the necessary three years younger.

Freckled, pig-tailed and not really pretty, she is engaging, perceptive, intelligent, but never precocious beyond her supposed years. She has moments of innocent ruthlessness, even viciousness; and can at one moment burn her father in effigy and the next fall into his arms. The child is mother to the woman: even at nine years old we can see Celia as a future radical intellectual.

Director Gillies MacKinnon's ambitious first film, *Conquest of the South Pole* (12, Electric, Notting Hill), is a brave, low-budget effort by an independent Scottish production company, Jam Jar Films. Manfred Karge's play was translated to a Scottish setting in the 1988 Traverse Theatre production at the Edinburgh Festival; now MacKinnon brings this Scottish version to the screen.

The play is about five unemployed and demoralized young men who find release from their spiritual depression through a communal exercise of the imagination. In their fantasies, aided by props stolen from the local sports shop, they relive Amund-

sen's 1910 Polar expedition. Sheets drying in the back yards represent their tents; and they plot their icy journey through sugar spilt on café tables. Bystander eyebrows may be raised at what seem like loutish antics; but in their minds the boys are committed to a truly perilous adventure.

It would be a considerable feat to sustain the interest of an imaginative fantasy of this sort throughout the length of a feature film; and MacKinnon does not achieve it, nor satisfactorily reconcile the realism of the setting (in and around Leith Docks) with the consciously literary language of Karge in translation. The playing of the ensemble of new faces — a couple of them from the original stage production — is admirable, though; and Sean Van Hales' photography, despite excessive fondness for overhead shots, gives the film a distinctive visual style.

Weekend at Bernie's (12, Odeon West End) is a one-joke film — the joke being a corpse which either turns up or vanishes at the most inconvenient moments. (Among others who have used it, Hitchcock did the gag very much better in *The Trouble with Harry*.) Andrew McCarthy and Jonathan Kane are a couple of idiot yuppies who get involved when their boss, for reasons of corporate convenience, is murdered.

The script makes very little sense: it is not clear, to begin with, why they do not just tell someone the man is dead; or later on why (apart from keeping the plot boiling) they are so obsessed with hanging on to the corpse. A great deal of rushing about, yelling and crashing of boats cannot conceal these holes in the script; and McCarthy and Kane are mutually unsympathetic comics. The only consistent performance in the film is Terry Kiser, as the corpse.

There is more Australians in *Encounter at Raven's Gate* (15, Prince Charles), a science-fiction story which occasionally compensates for poor dialogue and a muddled and truly incomprehensible story with some good visual effects, owing more to ingenuity than large resources. The director, Rolf de Heer, and his co-writer, Marc Rosenberg, are recent graduates of the Sydney Film & Television School.

Star performer: Rebecca Smart, engaging, perceptive and intelligent, in the title role of Ann Turner's *Celia*

Beam me up, Scotty, I have a book to write

Peter Guttridge meets William Shatner, actor and best-selling author of a possible screenplay

He is a slender, slightly anxious figure, and also by a public relations woman. Her presence is at his request: a pushy journalist from a Sunday newspaper did a job on him the day before. He is here to talk about his work as an author.

His first novel, *Tek War*, is a best-seller in the United States. Its British publishers are giving it an initial hardback and trade paperback print run of 35,000, a phenomenal number for a first-time author. The novel is a film addition to the science-fiction genre, "a gripping futuristic thriller by *Star Trek's* own Captain Kirk", according to the blurb.

In it, 22nd-century ex-cop Jake Cardigan, in Mexico to investigate the disappearance of scientist plus lovely daughter, becomes embroiled in the eponymous drug wars. It is a fast read, with several interesting futuristic ideas, but the characters are of cardboard and the plotting is perfunctory. One suspects it is selling because of Shatner's name.

Indeed, *Tek War* is a marketing product, written with television or film adaptation in mind. Shatner refers at one point in the conversation to other literary "properties" that he is working on, then quickly corrects himself: "Not properties — that's just a word that

comes to mind — other literary entities." But he is disarmingly candid about the calculating way the book has been produced.

"I did not intend to change the world with this book. There was a certain amount of calculation mixed with a certain design to provide entertainment when I started," he says. "There was an agent in New York who suggested I write a book. What I had in mind was a character that I could play if there was going to be a screenplay."

"I wanted a straight-line story, a mystery — and a connection with science-fiction because of the possibilities the commercial people were suggesting. I placed it

in Mexico because I was thinking in terms of a film budget and anywhere too exotic would be expensive."

Shatner acknowledges in print and in person, that he had help from writer Ron Goulart. "I have the good fortune to know Ron, a good writer. Between the two of us we worked out a schedule of writing and talking, out of which the book came about. I'd write, he'd write, we'd talk on the phone. We prefer not to say it was jointly written. But there's no end of my admiration for Ron."

Shatner is already halfway through a sequel spawned by the success of *Tek War*, and market

forces seem to be demanding a series. "*Tek War* started off as one book, but it got wonderful reviews and became a bestseller. Whereupon the greed factor arose. The publishers wanted me to write another, and now the contract no longer refers to *Tek War*, it refers to the Jake Cardigan series."

This series will be written with a film in mind. "There has been a lot of discussion about a film. I'm told that a series of books acquires more value as a film proposition than a single book," he says.

The Jake Cardigan series will be written in longhand. The man who, as Captain Kirk, deals on a daily basis with technology so advanced it is beyond our comprehension, admits he can't get the hang of computers. "I'm totally intimidated by a computer. As a matter of fact, I'm totally intimidated by a television set. My wife even has to set the video."

Howard's way, played again, again, and again

Probably more written about and analysed than any other film, *Casablanca* is arguably the best work of everyone involved, from Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman to the director, Michael Curtiz, and the three writers, Julius and Irving Epstein and Howard Koch.

Koch had proved himself a good story-teller in 1939 while working for Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre of the Air. Each week he turned out an hour-length radio play, 60 to 75 pages of script. When Welles wanted a Halloween play, Koch scripted the most famous of all radio plays, *The War of the Worlds* broadcast. Along with millions of panic-stricken Americans, Hollywood studio executives were listening, and Warner Brothers signed up Koch.

For *Casablanca*, he rewrote the Epstein brothers' romantic comedy treatment of a not-very-successful Broadway play, *Everybody Goes to Rick's*, as a political story.

Even today there is an unmistakably cinematic quality about a conversation with Koch, one of a few men who has stamped his character onto our perception of film, and still vital at 87. "You have to have your own set of values to write a good story," he says. "A writer should know who the good guys and bad guys are. The audience will see how you treat them."

While in those days one knew who the good guys and the bad guys were, Koch's heroes and villains were never cardboard cut-outs.

"I think in *Casablanca* the counter pretty much began when Rick first came in and saw Luluz (Paul Henreid)," says Koch. "There were people who wanted to get out of *Casablanca* and who couldn't. Who was going to get the letters of transit? They were all in conflict with the German authorities."

George Dorgan relates the story behind the screenwriting of *Casablanca*, still considered by many to be the finest film ever made

Most loved film: Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca*

in Rick's apartment, Lisa, torn with doubt, says: "I don't know the truth yet." Rick responds: "Well, go on, tell it. Maybe one will come to you as you go along."

This was literally true: the script was not finished yet. Before filming this scene, Bergman was practically dead of Koch: "How can I play a love scene when I don't know which man I'm going to end up with?" Weeks of filming without a complete script had finally got to the young actress.

The problem was no less on the mind of the writer. Koch was writing on set. "I felt the camera was a monster, devouring my work faster than I could produce it. I like to start with a beginning and an ending. I write sequen-

tially, because sometimes you get an idea which changes your direction and that's how you get to the ending."

Casablanca is used by Robert McKee as an example of an ideal film in his three-day screenwriting seminar, which focuses on the art of story-telling. He has a further revelation: the Epstein brothers had finished a detailed 200-page shooting script, but to get the best out of his actors, Mike Curtiz created the great lie that he did not know the ending. "Jack Warner wouldn't have launched a \$1 million picture without a detailed shooting script," says McKee. "He was the kind of man who wouldn't put a penny in a gumball machine unless he could see the candy."

While Bergman really did not

know whom she would end up with, Bogart did. He had the right to approve his dialogue, so his cool confidence came not only from good acting; he actually did know something the other characters did not.

When *Casablanca* was made, money was not the first consideration. "As soon as you begin to make pictures just for money, you think of effect," Koch says. "Pictures should be made for causes, not effects." And Koch always stood by his causes.

"With the death of Roosevelt you could feel things change. Reactionary forces took over, and McCarthy was their lurid spokesman. Even if you belonged to the Screenwriters Guild you were suspect. I was subpoenaed, but I wasn't a member of any party. I was blacklisted for being the chairman of the Hollywood Independent Committee for the Arts, Sciences and Professions. At the time I was living in Palm Springs because the atmosphere in Hollywood had become rather poisonous. I knew the blacklist was in effect when the phone stopped ringing."

Koch left for Europe with his wife, Ann, and his son, Peter. He finally came to England, and worked here for over a decade under the name Peter Howard.

"In writing a script you think for a while of how you can build a story out of your material," he says, "a story that will entertain as well as comment on society, on people. Then you think of how this story will begin and end. Each scene that comes along must have a causal relationship with what came before, and must plant the seed of what is to happen after. Break this chain and you lose confidence."

McKee agrees: "Life is a network of causes and the writer must throw his arms around all of it."

Robert McKee gives his seminar in London tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday. For information, contact Joan Harrison, at International Forum (0732 810 925).

VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

Duck soup is on the menu now

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast

HOWARD... A NEW BREED OF HERO (CIC, PG): Heavy-handed attempt to carve live-action cinema from a wisecracking comic-strip about an extra-terrestrial duck. Chases and special effects inject some belated panache. 1986.

CLARA'S HEART (Warner, 15): Pathos-drenched character drama about a Jamaican servant with a dark secret (Whoopi Goldberg, straightforward and serious) helping a rich kid grow up. Robert Mulligan's subtle direction makes the best of things. 1989.

DEAD POETS SOCIETY (Buena Vista, PG): Anarchic poetry versus stuffy academia in Vermont at the end of the Fifties. Naïve as drama, but galvanizing by John Williams' puckish performance. 1989.

THE FLY II (CBS/Fox, 18): Another luckless human (Eric Stoltz) becomes a glutinous bug-eyed monster. Ponderous sequel to the 1986 hit, with a jejune romance squeezed in between the transformations. 1989.

THE GRAPES OF WRATH (CBS/Fox, PG): John Steinbeck's saga of Oklahoma farmers trekking hopefully to better times, poignantly filmed by John Ford, with marvellous parts for Henry Fonda and Jane Darwell. An unassailable classic. 1940.

HOW TO GET AHEAD IN ADVERTISING (CBS/Fox, 15): Overly strident satire from Bruce Robinson, creator of *Withnail and I*. Richard E. Grant makes the most of his role as an advertising hot-shot undone by a neck bolt, but the scorching script defeats him. 1989.

LETHAL WEAPON 2 (Warner, 18): Dynamic sequel to the 1987 comedy thriller, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover as the odd couple of cops (one near-psychotic, the other placid), pursuing drug-smuggling diplomats. 1989.

MARRIED TO THE MOB (Virgin, 15): Typically inventive and off-beat entertainment from director Jonathan Demme, with Michelle Pfeiffer as a gangster's widow who tries to forge a new, respectable life. 1989.

THE ROSE (CBS/Fox, U): This stiff-jointed Biblical tale was the world's first CinemaScope feature, though that is hardly a plus on video. Lovers of musical kitsch may enjoy Alford Newman's overblown soundtrack; and those used to laughing at Victor Mature may be pleasantly surprised. 1954.

SLAVES OF NEW YORK (RCA/Columbia, 15): Punctilious director James Ivory all at sea in Manhattan's downtown art scene. But Bernadette Peters' kooky heroine has charms, and the trappings of fashion fascinate. 1989.

THE SONG OF BERNADETTE (CBS/Fox, U): Fake moments in this story of the Lourdes miracles are mostly outweighed by Jennifer Jones's freshness, the bustling background canvas, and the high technical polish. 1943.

TOMORROW

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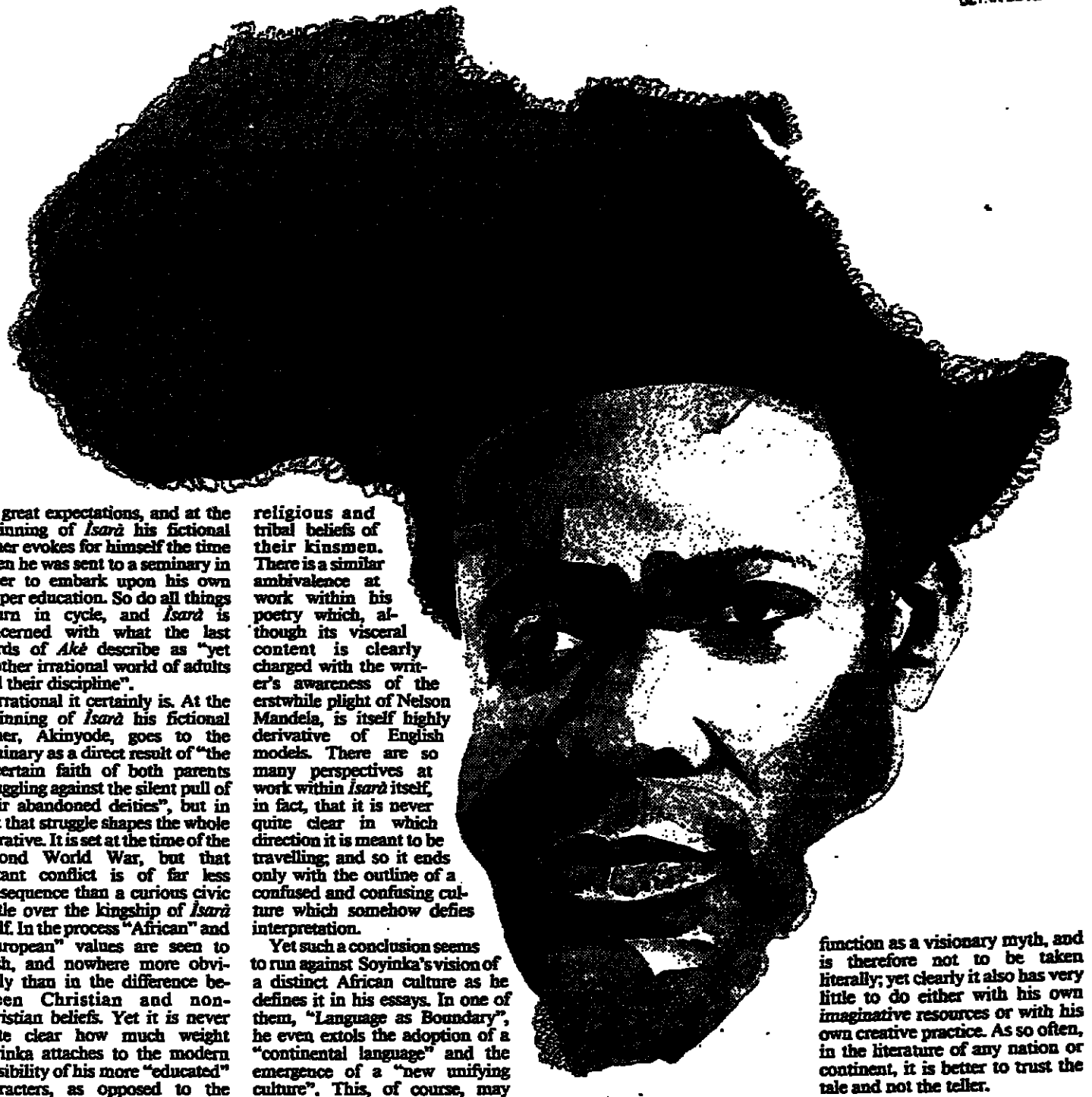
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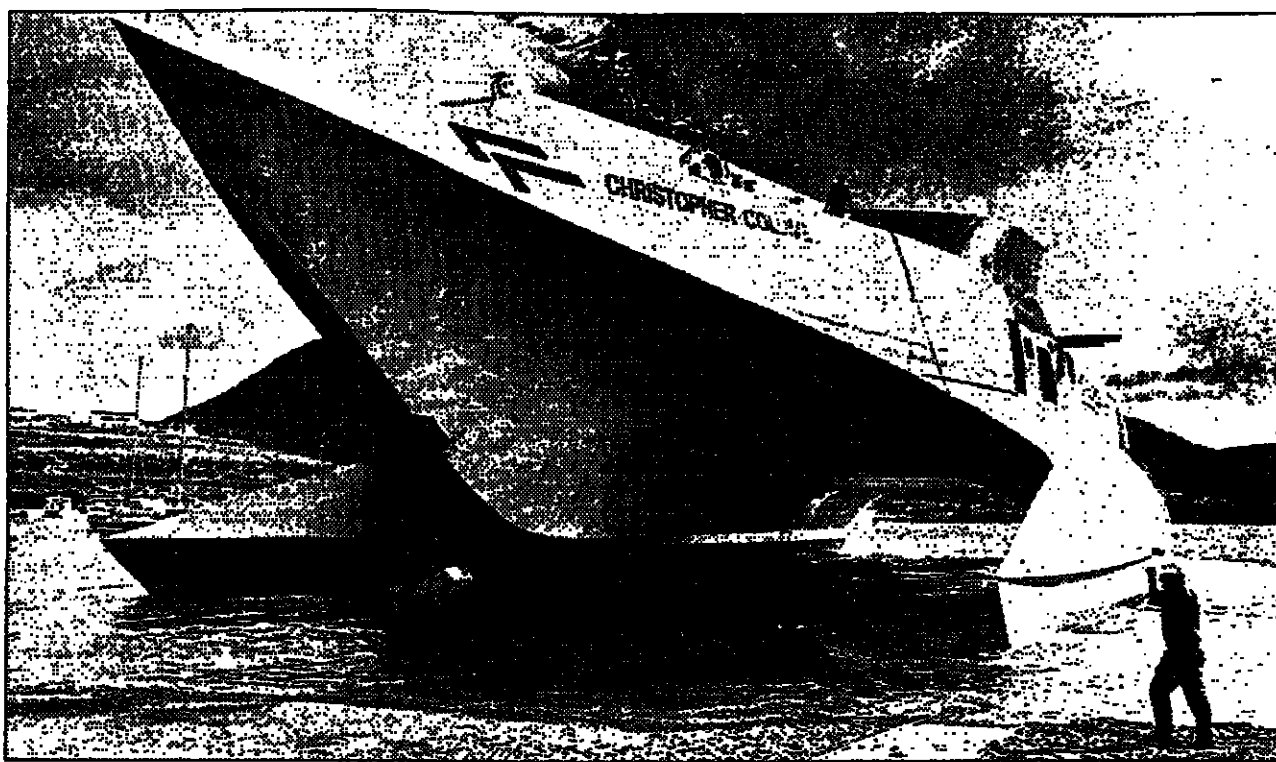
It is going to be an active year in the English Channel. While the building of the Channel Tunnel creates its own drama, with Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, in the role of troubleshooter, the ferry operators, port authorities and airlines are all making new moves to improve and extend their services.

There is optimism that whatever the success of the Channel Tunnel after its proposed opening in June 1993, the companies operating sea and air services have good prospects not only of retaining their traffic volumes, but of increasing them. As Frédéric Avierinos, commercial director for the port of Dunkirk, puts it, "the cake is getting bigger all the time, so there is plenty for everyone".

At a meeting today, shareholders in the Sea Containers company operating Sealink ferries will vote on whether to accept a takeover by Stena, a Swedish ferry group. Since James Sherwood, its main shareholder, has already approved the deal, it is thought certain to go through.

Next week, Sealink will take an important step when it introduces Fantasia, the first of its jumbo ferries, on the Dover-Calais route. Next month, Fantasia will be joined by Fiesta, and the two will compete with the large P&O ferries already in service. Each will carry 1,800 passengers and 723 cars (or 107 articulated lorries), and provide the more luxurious facilities that operators see as transforming a crossing into a "cruise".

Mr Sherwood is keeping his Hoverspeed company. In June, it will introduce a new



Super-ferry: one of the giant catamarans for the Portsmouth-Cherbourg route, expected to cut crossing times by almost half

type of vessel to compete with the existing ferries, hovercraft and jetfoils. Two giant catamarans, the first of a larger order, will be arriving from a Tasmanian shipyard to serve the Portsmouth-Cherbourg crossing. Carrying 450 passengers and more than 80 cars each, they will be able to make the trip in two hours and 40 minutes, almost halving the conventional ferry time.

There are also innovations in the air. Air France has recently inaugurated flights from London City airport to Lille and Strasbourg. At Southampton airport, now owned by Peter de Savary, a service to Cherbourg starts in two weeks' time; others are planned to Brussels, Düsseldorf and Zurich.

Conveying Britons to mainland Europe and Continentals to the UK is big business. The number of ferry passengers to and from France last year topped 20 million. With 15 million travellers passing through it every year, Dover is the world's busiest passenger port. A million lorries make it

also the leading ro-ro (roll on, roll off) port. The continuing expansion of the European economy suggests that such figures will not be seriously dented by the opening of the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel hopes that within 10 years it will have 58 per cent of car traffic on its Folkestone-Calais "shuttle" trains, and that 89 per cent of foot passengers will take the high-speed trains to be operated by British Rail, French Railways and Belgian Railways. It is expected that 53 per cent of present air travellers heading for short and middle-distance destinations will also prefer the train.

However, in a poll of holidaymakers by the Automobile Association, 70 per cent expressed dislike of the idea of being cooped up in the double-decker Tunnel shuttles, saying they would prefer ferries, despite a longer journey time and the possibility of bad weather. And the ferry companies talk of significant

reductions in prices once the bigger ships are operating a co-ordinated schedule (at present, opposed by the Office of Fair Trading).

Rationalization has already caused some casualties. The port of Folkestone, too small-scale, is to close. Hoverspeed's hovercraft are now ageing and no replacements have been commissioned. Sealink has closed its services to Cherbourg from Weymouth and Portsmouth.

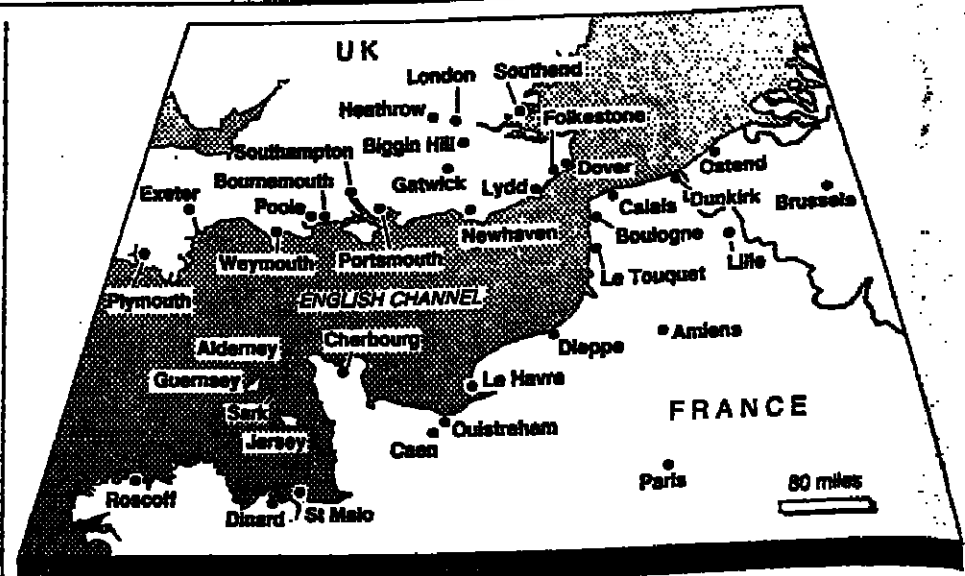
Further innovations are likely. Robin Wilkins, Hoverspeed's managing director, says: "We have not closed our eyes to other forms of fast ferries. There could be other hull designs or propulsion systems, whether mono-hulls or sidewall catamarans."

Other companies are already finding the Western Channel profitable territory. P&O European Ferries is increasing sailings on the Portsmouth-Cherbourg route. The Portsmouth-Caen route operated by Brittany Ferries has proved so popular that it accounts for 800,000 of the

company's two million Channel passengers.

There is a blackspot in the picture, however: while sea and air services improve year by year, road access to terminals, at least on the British side, remains inadequate. The M2 fades into two lanes several miles outside Dover. The M20 still lacks a central stretch, although it will open next year. The M3, also unfinished, goes to Southampton rather than the now more important port of Portsmouth. The Government announced its future motorway programme last month, causing dismay among residents of the South-East, afraid of disruption to towns and countryside.

British Rail conveys two million passengers annually from London by boat trains, connecting with hovercraft and ferries at Dover, Folkestone and Newhaven. Next month, BR and its Eurorail partners will reveal their latest thinking about the high-speed rail link, which has also led to protests.



The new freedom will open Europe's skies

As well as demolishing trade restrictions between member countries, the introduction of the single European market in 1992 will mean the deregulation of routes at present allocated to particular airlines.

Increased competition may cause problems for carriers, but in the short term at least, it is good news for customers. Prices are likely to fall.

Heathrow and Gatwick will stay dominant in numbers carried across the Channel. But smaller airports can expect to become popular with business executives who want quick and convenient travel, and that process has already begun. London City airport handled 217,000 passengers last year, and it expects 319,000 this year. The main routes to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam are served by Brymon Airways (40 per cent owned by British Airways) and London City Airways, both using the Dash 7, a 50-seater plane with a 500-mile range.

Last autumn, Flexair started a Rotterdam run with a 17-seat Dornier 228-202K, and Air France, using Brymon as its carrier, opened up Strasbourg and Lille. A three-day return fare to Paris is about £180, to Brussels between £144 and £200, and to Amsterdam £160.

While passenger numbers are growing, Mowlem, owner of London City, wants to increase capacity by introducing bigger planes. It has applied for permission for runway extensions, bigger planes with a reduced angle of landing and take-off, and a later close-down at 11pm.

This summer, a public inquiry will consider plans for a bridge downstream from the airport, redesigned at a lower

Deregulation should benefit the traveller

height so as not to endanger the flight path. It will also study Mowlem's proposals.

The busiest of the south-coast airports is Southampton. Bought a couple of years ago by Peter de Savary, it is operated by Airports UK, a British Airports Authority offshoot which also manages Exeter, Southend and Biggin Hill airports. The bulk of Southampton's 500,000 passengers annually fly to the Channel Islands, but Paris, Munich and Amsterdam each account for 20,000.

On April 1, Aurigny Airways will start a service to Cherbourg. "France is not well-served from the UK," Peter Willis, airport deputy director, says. "But there is great interest in starting services to regional cities."

Applications are also in for routes to Brussels, Düsseldorf and Zurich. The present licensing system makes the granting of licences a long procedure, but Mr Willis and his colleagues look forward to more services after deregulation.

Airports UK won its first contracts, to manage Exeter airport — on behalf of Devon

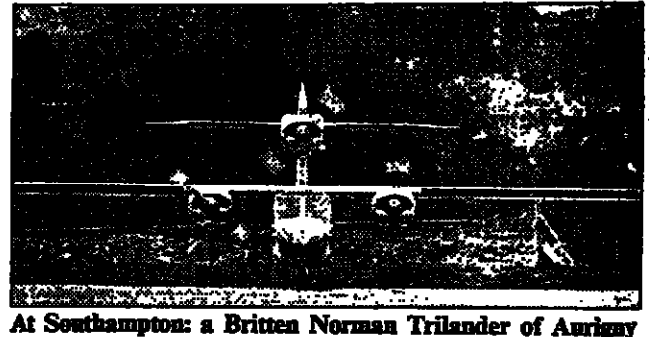
County Council — and Southampton-Eastleigh, in 1984. Southend followed the next year. Biggin Hill in 1988 and others are being sought.

At Exeter airport, a quarter of a million passengers pass through each year, some on scheduled services within mainland Britain and to the Channel Islands, others on charters to the Mediterranean and, in winter, to Alpine ski resorts. Jersey European Airlines offers flights to Dinard from Exeter. Southampton and Bournemouth at between £55 and £65 one way.

A growing market is air taxi services. Though costly, the expense of taking a company's management team across the Channel may be less than by scheduled flight.

Air Direct, in Southampton, says: "The direct flight time from Southampton to Caen is 45 minutes. Your staff could leave the UK at 7.30am and be at their desks by 9.30am, French time. By leaving the French office at 4pm, they could be in the UK by 4pm for as little as £120 a head."

One of the best-equipped airports on the French side for scheduled flights is Le Touquet, in postwar years the French end of the car air-ferry service from Lydd. Today, it is a busy destination for small charter planes from places such as Biggin Hill.



At Southampton: a Britten Norman Trilander of Aurigny

Why France loves the Tunnel

Attitudes to the Channel Tunnel are very different in France. Land is more plentiful than in Britain and greater distances make improved communications more important. The Tunnel is seen as northern France's biggest asset in the reinvigoration of a region devastated by the collapse of smelting industries.

The TGV high-speed train link and new motorways are being planned with the aim of providing a transport infrastructure that will spread the beneficial effects of increased trade as widely as possible.

This can be seen in the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" city being built at the Tunnel's Coquelles terminal outside

Calais, which will not only serve Eurotunnel's shuttle customers but function also as a trade and leisure shop window for the Nord and Pas-de-Calais départements. The regional capital of Lille, where TGV trains will branch off for Paris or Brussels, is building an exhibition and conference centre.

Lobbying by other towns has led to promises that trains to and from places such as Dunkirk will be able to join the TGV track to achieve faster journey times to Paris and beyond.

Major road schemes will also improve connections with north-coast ports. The *Roads Littorale*, a dual carriageway,

will run from the Belgian border past Dunkirk and Calais to Boulogne. From there, a new A16 motorway will continue southwards to Amiens and Paris. Dieppe and Le Havre will also plug into the motorway grid via an east-west autoroute running between Le Havre and Amiens. At Calais, the last stretch of the A26 to the ferry and hover ports will open this autumn.

Britain needs to agree about its road and rail plans this year if the Tunnel and ports are to be properly served. Otherwise, there will be a new version of the old news flash: "Bottlenecks in London, Kent and Hampshire — Continent isolated".

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Calmer crossings

Today's ferries
are trying for
a better image
and a better deal
for passengers

Cross-Channel passengers are experiencing much improved port and ferry services this year. The companies' brochures justifiably boast of better schedules, small fare increases and a range of new facilities. The drawback is that crossing the Channel by ferry, hovercraft or jetfoil has not always been trouble-free or wholly pleasurable.

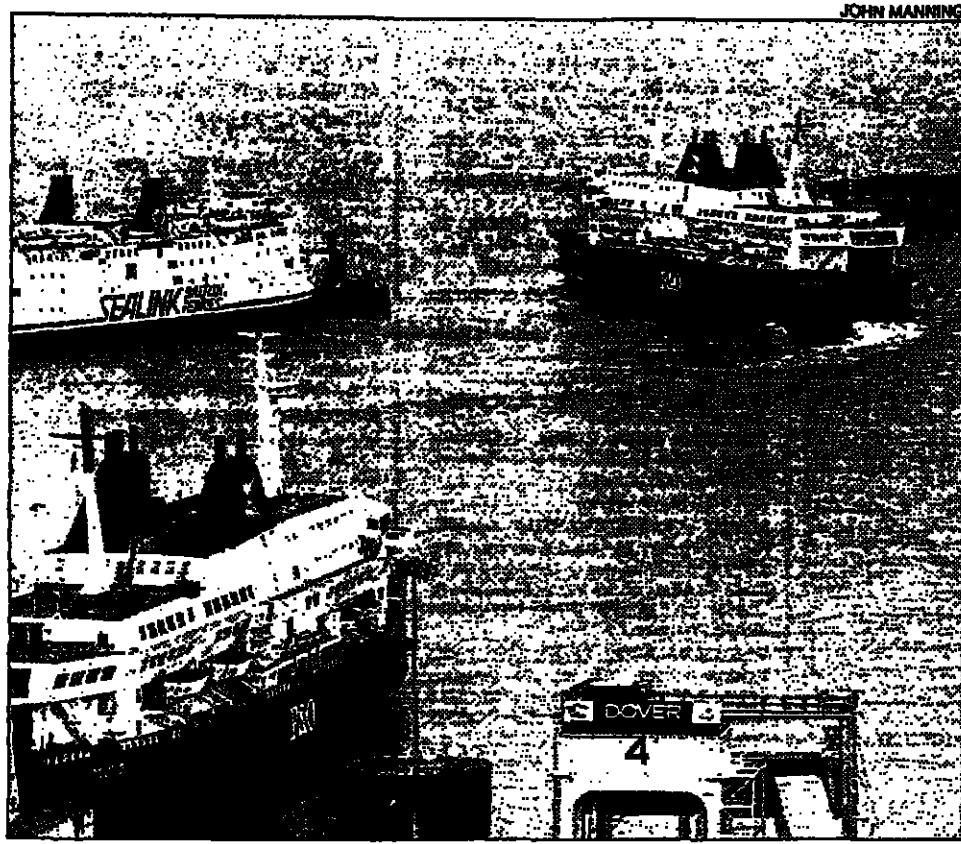
Operators can hardly be blamed for disruptions caused by the Channel's notoriously changeable weather. But inadequate onshore and on-board facilities have been an irritant for regular or business passengers not cushioned by holiday euphoria.

Delays resulting from the cramped ports are increasingly being eliminated, however, by expansion at Dover, Portsmouth and elsewhere. And, although the ferry companies may not welcome its being said out loud, the flexibility of their computerized check-in systems makes it possible for cars to turn up without bookings and get on to all except the busiest holiday crossings.

P&O and Sealink would like to improve convenience for passengers still further by introducing interchangeability of tickets. The Office of Fair Trading is blocking the idea in the interests of preserving competition, but it is expected to give its approval as the opening of the Channel Tunnel approaches.

Then the two companies will be able to offer hourly sailings on the main Dover-Calais route in super-ferries that load on two decks and make the passage in one hour and 15 minutes, only about half an hour more than the Tunnel shuttle.

Until recently, P&O has



Heading for France: the ferry companies aim to keep their customers with an improved service

been the trend-setter with its Pride of Dover and Pride of Calais, which are about to be followed into service by Sealink's Fiesta and Fantasia.

But it was Sealink that pioneered such fringe benefits as more comfortable motorists' lounges and an "Auto Club" giving a 20 per cent discount for regular travellers. P&O now offers steward-service Club Class lounges for a £5 premium on standard fares, and also a Motorists' Points discount system.

A welcome result of the introduction of super-ferries on the Dover-Calais route is that the ferries they replace are being deployed to augment or replace smaller vessels on other routes. Sealink's St Austell is being transferred to the Boulogne run.

The Champs Elysees, another French ship that used to serve Dover-Calais, is to be transferred to the Newhaven-Dieppe route, where Sealink recently acquired a 49 per cent interest in the company taking over the French Railways service. The Côte d'Azur will remain in Calais.

Brittany Ferries, the Channel's third ferry-operator, started as recently as 1973, when Breton farmers bought a freighter to carry produce between Roscoff and Plymouth. The St Malo-Portsmouth crossing followed in 1976, and a decade later the construction of a new port at Quistreham made the Calais-Portsmouth route possible.

With two million Channel passengers a year, Brittany Ferries is now the largest operator west of Dover. St Malo's Chamber of Commerce is contributing to a joint scheme for a bigger ferry port able to take jumbo-style ferries. At Poole, Dorset, Brittany Ferries' Truckline Les Routiers freight service to Cherbourg, twice daily this summer, offers a no-frills service for up to 350 cars and 1,200 passengers.

Hoverspeed, owned by James Sherwood, intends to continue providing the fastest Channel crossings. Its hovercraft fleet is now joined by catamarans with 450 seats and

room for 80 cars. In addition to the two on the Portsmouth-Cherbourg route, a Dover-Boulogne catamaran service is envisaged when the third "SeaCat" arrives later this year and the two ports provide berthing facilities.

Jetfoils from Dover's Western Docks to Ostend carry an impressive third of a million passengers every year on a 100-minute crossing, saving more than two hours on the ferry time for a modest £6 premium on the standard fare. They are owned by the Belgian company RMT (Regie voor Maritiem Transport) and are operated by P&O.

This year's fares for a car plus two adults and two children on the short sea crossings start at about £129 return, rising to about £256 return in the summer peak. Prices are not much more on the Western Channel routes, nor for cars longer than 4m.

Excursion fares offer 25 per cent savings on five-day trips and 50 per cent on 2½-day trips. Ten-day excursions are now available in the Western Channel.

Once the Channel Tunnel is open, British Rail is set to become its main user, apart from Euro-tunnel itself. It will have a fleet of specially designed trains shared with French and Belgian Railways, and will initially operate 20 services daily in each direction mainly between London and Paris and London and Brussels.

In the interval it is beginning to revamp its cross-Channel train service. The Golden Arrow it is not, but BR has given it the new title of the "Channel Train", and international facilities at Victoria are being matched by a long overdue refurbishment of Dover's Western Docks terminal.

The Channel Train's sailing point is that it has the fastest non-air travel time between London and Continental destinations at a price significantly lower than air fares. Non-stop trains to the Western Docks connect with hovercraft for Calais and Boulogne, and jetfoils to Ostend. From Boulogne, French Railways has a small but speedy turbo train to

You won't have to go off the rails if you visit Paris

Paris, making a total journey time of five and a half hours for £69 return.

An alternative route is by Dover or Newhaven, Sealink ferries and connecting trains, for which the cost is marginally less at £65 and £62 respectively. There are also boat trains to Folkestone, which connect with ferries to Boulogne. However, the port is expected to close at the end of the year, and last month Sea Containers gained provisional planning permission for a £100 million leisure and residential redevelopment of the harbour.

Passengers not using the Channel Train can use other BR services from Victoria and

Charing Cross to link with ferries or hovercraft. Free coaches run between Dover Priory station and the docks. But in either respects facilities are poor. BR itself acknowledges that Dover Priory is not a suitable terminal for rail or bus transfers of large numbers of passengers, and its cramped and ill-equipped booking hall is among Britain's worst.

This is despite the considerable day-tripper traffic encouraged by BR and the ferry companies to boost revenues. Day fares from London to Calais or Boulogne are a bargain £20. Ferry operators also gain from increased sales in their duty-free stores, though this is a profit source

that will be much reduced after the standardization of excise charges after 1992.

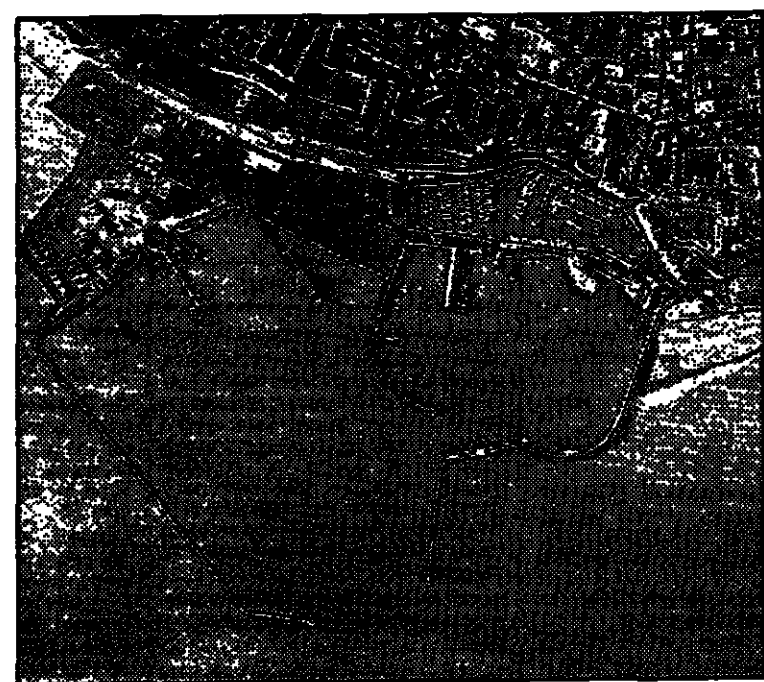
After the Channel Tunnel opens the journey time between the capitals will be three hours. The fares are intended to compete with those of air travel, but the tariff may be so high as to make the much cheaper Hoverspeed and ferry services widely popular.

A curious quirk of the proposed Channel Tunnel service is that foot passengers wanting to cross from Folkestone to the Calais terminal will not be able to take the train. The last stop on the British side will be Ashford. On the French side most services will race through to Lille, and only a few will stop at the Fréthun interchange.

Eurotunnel is similarly uninterested in short-haul passengers. No passenger accommodation is being provided on its shuttles.

The only option for these travellers will be to book on coach services, which Eurotunnel expects to become part of its regular trade.

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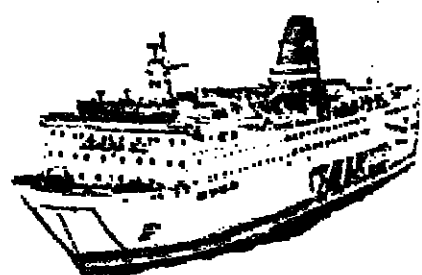
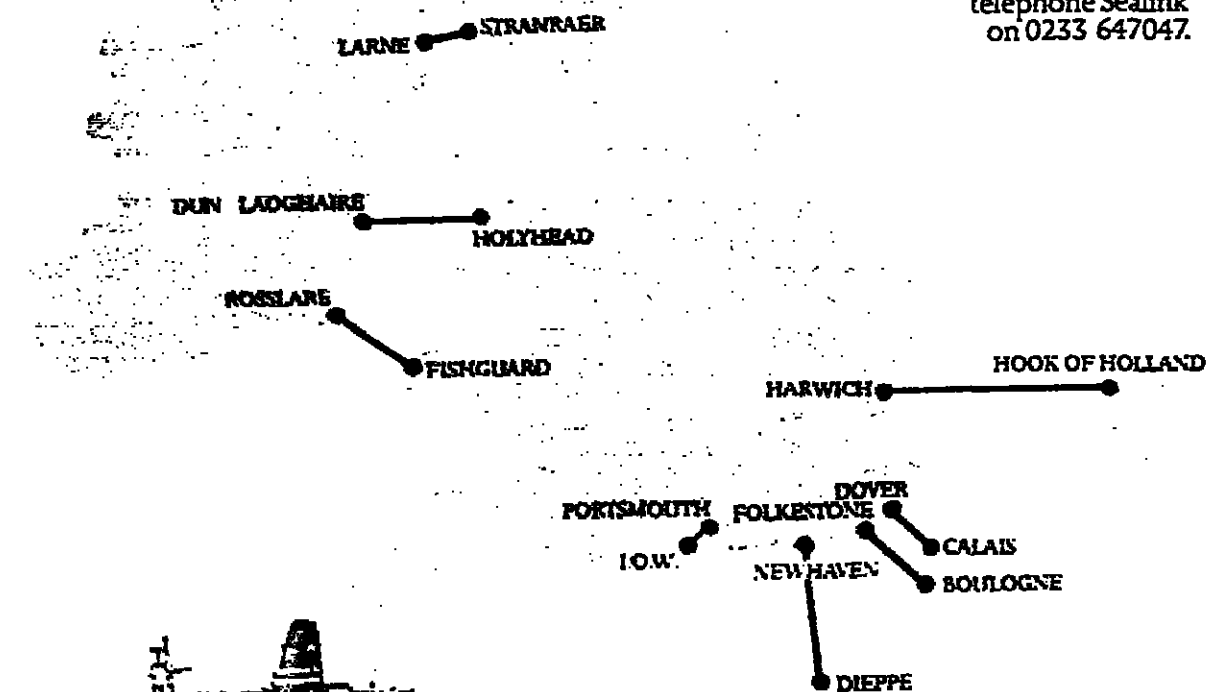


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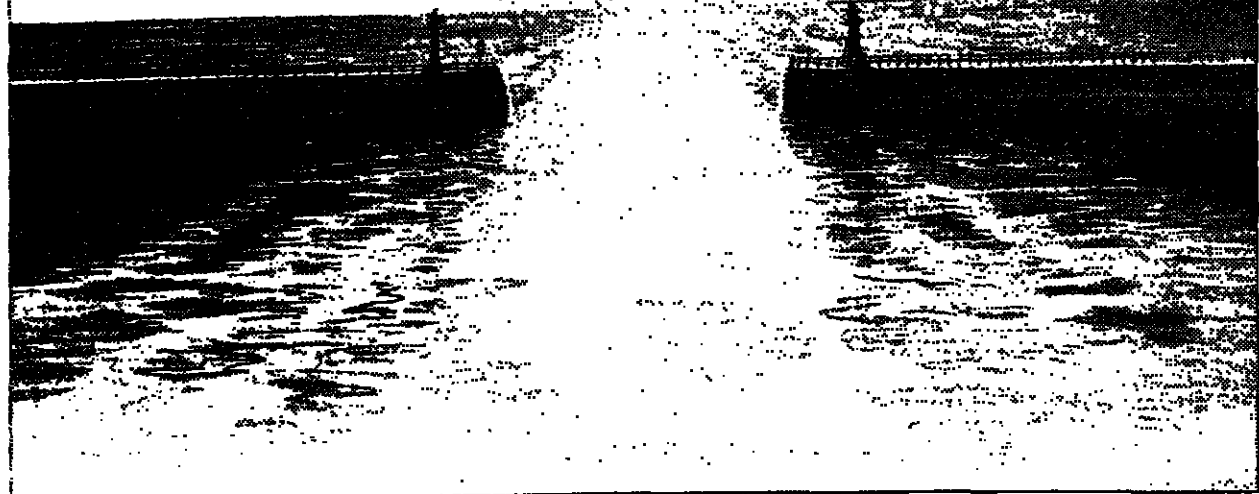
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PREVIEW

TODAY: Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA

Hilary Finch

LONDON

LA TRAVIATA: David Pountney's thoughtful and searching revival with Stefano Lazzari's conflicted sets, with Helen Field and Bonaventura Bottone. Noel Davies conducts. Coliseum (as above). Tonight, Tues, 7.30-10.30pm, £3-23.

ELEKTRA: Further chance to see Götz Friedrich's new production for the Royal Opera. Based on Sophocles' tale of family hatred and revenge, Sir Georg Solti conducts with Eva Marton outstanding in the title role. Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1060). Tomorrow, 8pm; Tues, 8.30pm, £2.50-22.

THE MIKADO: Revival of Jonathan Miller's chic, witty, Hollywood-style G & S production. James Holmes conducts an unflattering cast with Jans Kelly as Yum-Yum tomorrow. Coliseum (as above). Tomorrow, Wed, 7.30-10.30pm, £3-23.

L'ELISIR D'AMORE: Pavarotti heads the cast in John Copley's revival for the Royal Opera. Marcello Panni, with whom Pavarotti has performed the role at the Met, conducts a familiar cast including Daniela Mazzucato and Inger Wilhelmsen. Covent Garden (as above). Sat, Wed (gala night), 7.30-10.15pm, £5-28.

THE GAMBLER: Revival of David Pountney's searing Prokofiev production sees the return of Graham Clark in his powerful portrayal of Dostoevsky's hero, Alexei. Sir James Edwards makes her debut conducting. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-358 3161). Sat, 7.30-9.50pm, £3-23.

OTELLO: Last chance to see Elijah Moshinsky's production. Covent Garden (as above). Mon, 7.30-10.30pm, £2.50-22.

UN GIORNO DI REGNO: University College Opera continues their admirable tradition of staging rare, early Verdi. A challenge for director Terry John Bates and conductor Christopher Field. Bodley Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-387 9829). Tues, Wed, 7.30-10.30pm, £5-28.

OUTSIDE LONDON

THE MERRY WIDOW: Heavy-handed production for Opera 80 in which Heather Lorimer and the rest of the young cast work hard to try and salvage some semblance of style. Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, £7-21. The Heron (as above). Mon, 7.30pm, £5.50-28.50.

ODIPUS REX/BLUEBEARD: Stefano Lazzari both designs and directs Scottish Opera's double bill of Greek and properly disturbing double bill of Stravinsky and Bartók. Kathryn Harries and Monte Jaffe give outstanding performances. Playhouse (as above). Tonight, 7.15-10.15pm, £5-21.50.

COSÌ FAN TUTTE: Welsh National Opera's interestingly cast revival with Valere Masseron as Fiorillo, Maureen Brathwaite as Despina and Bryn Terfel as Guglielmo. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts. Hippodrome (as above). Tonight, 7.15pm, £9.50-22.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: Welsh National's co-production with Opera North a busy, hilarious comic production by Giles Hoggarth. A strong cast led by Anthony Michaels Moore and Kate McCarney. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Hippodrome, Birmingham (021-622 7489). Tomorrow, 7.15-10.30pm, £9.50-22.

DIE FLEDERMAUS: Revival of Scottish Opera's fun production by Simon Callow. Watch out for George Moseley's Orlovsky.

Three of a classical kind

Scottish Ballet's new programme, opening with a gala tomorrow, offers three views of classical ballet, each given flavour by a different national style and a different period. The cornerstone is the great bravura showpiece which Marius Petipa created in 1861 in St Petersburg as an addition to the old ballet, *Paquita*. This is very much of the imperial Russian period and survives through the brilliance and style of its solos and ensembles. The present production is staged by Oleg Vinogradov, the Kirov Ballet's director. The other two works are both by George Balanchine and entirely new to the company. In *Scottish Symphony* (pictured here), which is receiving back to the world of the old French romantic ballet, with its sylphs and tarts, but in *Who Cares?*, he indulges his love of Gershwin's songs for a ballet which, although as purely classical in form as Petipa's, has all the glitz and sentiment of Broadway as we like to imagine it. This is the first time Scottish Ballet has tackled any of Balanchine's choreography, and they have been coached for it by an American guest director, Nancy Cunniff. The *Scottish Symphony*, Hope Street, Glasgow (041 331 1234). From tomorrow until March 24, 7.15pm (not Sun), Saturday matinee 2.15pm, £3 to £17. Then touring. *John Percival*



John Percival

Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh (031 557 2590). Tomorrow, 7.15-10.15pm, £5-21.50. Empire Theatre, Liverpool (051 700 1555). Wed, 7.15-10.15pm, £5-21.50.

DER FREISCHÜTZ: Welsh National Opera's dark Weber revival. André Engel's challenging production, conducted by Anthony Negus, has had mixed responses. Apollo Theatre, Oxford (0865 244544). Tues, 7.15-10.15pm, £5-22.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOORE: Opera 80 offers a compact, visually striking production which nevertheless overstates its young cast led by Linda Clemens. Hexagon, Reading (0734 591591). Tomorrow, 7.30-10.15pm, £7-21. The Heron, Crawley (0293 553636). Tues, 7.30-10.15pm, £7.50 and £8.50.

DER ROSENKAVÄLER: Welsh National Opera offer a traditional production by Wolfgang Weber, with few surprises. Sir Charles Mackerras conducting a superb account of the score to support a cast including Rita Gyllis, Amanda Rooroot and Donald Adams. Hippodrome (as above). Sat, 6.30-10.30pm, £11-23. Apollo Theatre (as above). Wed, 8.30-10.30pm, £9-23.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: Welsh National's co-production with Opera North a busy, hilarious comic production by Giles Hoggarth. A strong cast led by Anthony Michaels Moore and Kate McCarney. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Hippodrome, Birmingham (021-622 7489). Tomorrow, 7.15-10.30pm, £9.50-22.

DIE FLEDERMAUS: Revival of Scottish Opera's fun production by Simon Callow. Watch out for George Moseley's Orlovsky.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending 10th March 1990

FICTION			
1	Thomas Regained, John Mortimer	Viking	£13.99
2	Bourne Ultimatum, Robert Ludlum	Craft	£13.95
3	Posession, A.S. Byatt	Griffin	£13.95
4	The Remains of the Day, Kazuo Ishiguro	Faber & Faber	£13.95
5	The Only Victor, Alexander Kent	Holmes	£12.95
NON-FICTION			
1	Deborah's Passage, Deborah	Debut	£120.00
2	Liar's Poker, Michael Lewis	Hodder	£12.95
3	Against the Grain, Boris Yeltsin	Cape	£12.95
4	C.S. Lewis - Biography, A.N. Wilson	Collins	£15.00
5	The Pride of Lucifer, Dominic Hobson	Hamish Hamilton	£16.95
PAPERBACKS			
1	The Negotiator, Frederick Forsyth	Corgi	£ 4.99
2	Passing On, Penelope Lively	Penguin	£ 4.99
3	Cat's Eye, Margaret Atwood	Virago	£ 4.99
4	Eva Luna, Isabel Allende	Penguin	£ 4.99
5	Beverly Hills, Pat Booth	Arrow	£ 4.99
6	Leslie Eliott, Ann Victoria Roberts	Pen	£ 4.99
7	A Season in Hell, Jack Higgins	Arrow	£ 4.99
8	Any Old Iron, Anthony Burgess	Arrow	£ 4.99
9	The Music Programme, Paul Mowbray	Black Swan	£ 4.99
10	The Eight, Katherine Neville	Headline	£ 4.50

Source: Hachards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

NEW MOVIES: Glasgow's new dance season brings two British premieres - Truus Bronkhorst from Holland with her solo *Gold* (tonight, Fri), and Alain Plassat from Flanders with his company in *On Time* (Sat, Sun).

SHOBANA JAYASINGH: Programme by leading London-based Indian dancer and her company. Warehouse, London NW10 (01-451 0294). Sat, 8pm, £5.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE: Theatre Works by new artistic director Dan Wagoner ranging from Copeland to ragtime and jazz. Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Haxham (0434 607272). Today, Fri 7.30pm, mat 1.30pm, £7.50, £25.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Christopher Bruce's *Swan Lake* combining comedy, lyricism and tragedy. Civic Theatre, Loughborough, Leicestershire (0774 400883). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £5.50.

Towngate Theatre, Paget Mead, Bedford (0228 526282). Mon-Wed 7.30pm, mat Wed 2pm, £5.50-28.50, mat £3.50.

GISELLE: Christopher Gable's unusual 19th-century production for Northern Ballet Theatre. Towngate Theatre, Kingsland Road, Poole (0202 685222). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed 2.30pm, £7-21.0, mat £5.50.

WOLE SOYAKA: SPRING THE WALL: Lecture coincides with publication of *Mandel's Earth and Other Poems*. Nobel prize winner for literature in 1986. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). Today, 1pm, £1.80, plus 21 day membership.

MAGGIE O'SULLIVAN: Very fine poet, with partner's and composer's ear for language, on rare and welcome visit reads *Another Weather System*. The Two Brewers, Monmouth Street, London WC2 (01-340 6224). Tomorrow, 8pm, £2.50.

SEAMUS DEANE AND TOM PAULIN: Poets and critics both read their own work and discuss forthcoming title *Field*.

Day Anthology of Irish Literature which has been called "the most radical cultural initiative in Ireland since the death of Yeats". Part of the London-wide Slí Phadraig Festival (tomorrow). Also catch Roger Garrett (Wed) reading from his latest collection *Living Ground*. The Voice Box, Festival Hall, Level 5 (rad side), South Bank, London SE1 (01-323 8800). Tomorrow, Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50.

KETH JAPRANTE: Exciting performer, five volumes published to date, blends jazz poems and raps with rhythms of Africa, jazz and blues. Warehouse, London NW10 (01-451 0294). Tomorrow, 8.30pm, £2 (22 concs).

SHIRLEY CONRAN: After *Superwoman* comes *Down With Superwoman*. She talks with broadcaster Jenny Lacey about this amended edition (tomorrow), and with writer Rosalind Coward, and Jenny Murray, presenter of *Woman's Hour* at the ICA (Mon).

ARVON FOUNDATION: Fleur Adcock, Fred Auer, Matthew Sweeney and Kit Wright read at this second book launch. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, London W12 (01-602 3703). Mon, 8pm, tickets minimum £5.

THE HARD EDGE CLUB: This week making waves are Wendy Jessop, Lorraine Kitchan, Georgina Lock, Audi Masera (vocalist/techno) and Adrian Shaw with his *Dragonflight*. The Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, London W12 (01-602 3703). Mon, 8.30pm, £2.50 (21 concs).

DOUGLAS DUNN AND CRAIG RAINE: Each presents a version of Racine's *Andromache*. The Poetry Society, 21 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 (01-370 6829). Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50 (22 concs), £1.25 membership.

MAURA DOOLEY: 1987 Eric Gregory Award winner reads lyrical poems fit to clear lines in advance of her first full collection *Money for Jam* due this coming November.

The Burleigh Arms, Newmarket Road, Cambridge (0223 359977, ext 3816). Wed, 8pm, £2 (21 concs).

PERFORMANCE ART

Ghislaine Boddington

FORCED ENTERTAINMENT THEATRE CO-OPERATIVE: *Sex Confessions in the Law* about Laura, Cynthia and other look at the illusions of life. Sheffield based co-operative confirm their reputation for original theatre about life in the cities.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). Tonight until March 21 (not Sun), 8pm, Mon 8.45pm; Tues-Sat 2.50pm (£4.80 concs); plus 21 day membership.

SPRING COLLECTION 2: A wide-ranging platform of work from younger artists including Mark Murphy and Sue Cox's physical theatre, the madcaps Kate France, Andrew Davenport and MAD in *Chameleon*. Dance Space, 84-84 Chislehole Road, London E3 (01-861 6617). Sat, 3pm onwards, £8 (£3.50 concs).

ABOUT DIVERSE WOMEN IN TIME: A week's festival of live performance art, film and video work, by a strong selection of challenging women in this field. Film and video programme daily and workshops. Community Arts Centre, Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston (0772 201011). Sat, 7.30pm and 8pm, Mon-Wed 8pm, £2.50 (£1.25 concs), week ticket £10 (£5 concs), weekend ticket £5 (£3 concs). Until March 23.

ANNE GRUFFIN: *Almost Persuaded*. An excellent chance to see Anne Griffin's own brand of "country and western" theatre - based around the song by Tammy Wynette. Until April 19. TAC2, 20-22 Highbury Corner, London N5 (01-700 5715). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm and 10pm (late bar), 25 in advance, £5 on door.

Compiled by Kari Lloyd

Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Tony Patrick, Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 3XN

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15): Highly diverting fireworks between a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocktail pianists (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Odeon Haymarket (01-439 7687).

PLAFFE: High-pitched satirical lunacy from Cuba, about a combative mother-in-law assailed by eggs. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

RENEGADES (15): Tough cop and bad boy team to rescue a sacred Indian spear. Lame thriller, starring Kiefer Sutherland. Cannon Haymarket (01-439 1527).

SHADOW MAKERS (12): Roland Joffé's compelling account of Coppenhaver (Dwight Schultz) peering the atom bomb; Paul Newman towers on the sidelines. Empire (01-497 9999) Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636).

THE SUMMER OF AVIYA (PG): El Cohen's prize-winning film about a young girl facing up to the Holocaust. Phoenix (01-888 2233).

THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15): A perfect marriage self-destructs violently. Exhausting black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111).

BLACK RAIN (18): Michael Douglas pursues a Japanese gangster. Flashy potboiler from director Ridley Scott. Plaza (01-497 9999).

BLAZE (15): Paul Newman as politician Earl Long, defiantly in love with a stripper. Colourful. Cannon Oxford Street (01-439 0310).

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Cannon Parkway (01-267 7034).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema; a hugely appealing salute to the movies. Curzon Mayfair (01-465 8865).

DANCY THRU THE DARK (15): Willy Russell's this but bolshoi comedy-musical set in a Liverpool dance hall. Cannon: Chelsea (01-362 5096).

DRIVING MISS DAISY (U): Jessica Tandy as the prickly Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Accomplished, endearing. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-890 5881).

FAMILY BUSINESS: Curate's egg comedy-drama about a family of crooks (Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman, Matthew Broderick). Cannon Parkway (01-267 7034).

NOTHING BUT A GIRL (12): Notting Hill Coronet (01-727 6044/5) Odeon: Kensington (01-602 6644/5) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

EVERYMAN (01-435 1525): Paul Cox's affecting *Man of Flowers*; and Paul Verhoeven's overripe *The Fourth Man*; *Crazy Love* - Charles Bukowski tales filmed by Belgium's Dominique Deruders.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE (01-828 3535): Jules Dassin's evocative drama of the London underworld, *Night and the City*; Steven Parker's TV comedy-thriller *Blue Monday*.

victim in 1950s England. Stylized. Metro (01-437 0757).

GLORY (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War; powerful performances. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 8861).

HAMLET GOES BUSINESS (15): Classic, updated Shakespeare filmed in 8-movie style by Finnish jester Ad Kurantimäki. Everyman (01-435 1525).

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (U): Minuscule children battle through their garden to safety. Engaging special effects romp. Odeon: Kensington (01-802 6644/5) West End (01-930 5252/7615) Odeon: Chelsea (01-722 5905) Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA (15): Lorca's play about a widow and her six daughters; fine acting, but tedious cinema. Premiere (01-439 4470).

JESUS OF MONTREAL (18): Passion Play trouble in Montreal. Obvious but elegant satire from director Dany Armand. Rankin (01-437 8402).

LIFE AND NOTHING BUT (PG): The emotional aftermath of World War One, sensitively explored by director Bertrand Tavernier. Premiere (01-439 4470).

LOCK UP (18): Factory-belt prison drama, with Sylvester Stallone facing the wrath of warden Donald Sutherland. Cannon Oxford Street (01-439 0310).

MONKEY SHINES (18): Ugly nonsense about a quadrupole and a human-riding monkey. Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

PARENTHOOD (12): Ron Howard's episodic heart-warmer about family life. Steve Martin heads a stellar cast. Cannon Oxford Street (01-439 0310).

SEA OF MURDER (18): Cop (El Pacino) and murder suspect (Alan Bates) fall in love. Atmospheric, raunchy thriller. Cannon: Baker Street (01-335 9772) Fulham Road (01-370 2636).

STEELE MARGOLIAS (PG): Female gossip and tears Down South. Cheery-sentimental, though some performers please Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis. Barbican (01-638 8891) Odeon: Kensington (01-602 6644/5) Swan Cottage (01-722 5905) Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5096) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

TROP BELLE POUR TOI (18): Gérard Depardieu toys between his wife and mistress. Skilful satire on marital mores from Bertrand Blier. Cannon Plaza (01-495 2443).

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (15): Romantic comedy with a brittle touch. Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal. Cannon: Chelsea (01-351 3742) Lumiere (01-436 0691).

EVERYMAN (01-435 1525): Paul Cox's affecting *Man of Flowers*; and Paul Verhoeven's overripe *The Fourth Man*; *Crazy Love* - Charles Bukowski tales filmed by Belgium's Dominique Deruders.

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Turning against the tide

TELEVISION CHOICE

TURN OF MIND

TURN OF MIND

TURN OF MIND

TURN OF MIND

TURN OF MIND

TURN OF MIND

TURN OF MIND

TELEVISION CHOICE

● I have to admit that French and Saunders (BBC2, 9.00pm) are a blind spot and nothing in tonight's show changes my mind. But their admirers will be glad to see them back with, among other things, parodies of Abba and *The Sound of Music* and impersonations of two well-heeled (and well-nadded) ladies of the shires.

12.15am International Cricket.
Highlights of the one-day game in Guyana between West Indies and England

12.45 Weather

**4.00 News headlines followed by
Three's Company. American comedy
series**
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
**5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne
Leuchars. Ends at 6.00**

HTV WALES
 Wales & Westminster 10.35 Wales This Week 11.05
 Rugby 11.35 Better Late 12.05am-12.35 Cover Story
 (Robert Palmer)

NETWORK 2
 Starting 4:30pm
 Racing 4:30 Pm's Pats 4:30
 Happy Birthday 4:45 Wonderstruck 5:25 All Change
 5:00 Jo-Mad 6:30 Home and Away 7:00 Nuacht 7:05
 Cursai 7:30 Elys 8:00 Doogie Howser MD 8:30
 Marketplace 9:00 Kate and Allie 9:30 Street Legal
 10:30 News 10:50 Nightawks 11:30 A Fine Romance
 12:00 Close.

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

[illegible]

Chopin Edith
Mackie, tenor,
Linda Hirst
(Symphony No.
1 Piano Concerto)
Dwight S.
6 in D, Op 38
1.10 Albéniz (Isaac)
Kyrle, piano
Ferdinand
Fenton introduced the
his short lyric piece
the "Nachtigall"
Possibility" and
1.15 Music in Our Time
to a program
Sarah Leonard
Linda Hirst
with the Endymion
and the Poetess
Whitfield performed
(Hunts and Song)
the Poetess
Belbridge (Con
moto perpetuo).
(The Duration on
Percussion)
introduced by N
Osborne
11.00 Composers of the
pieces played
Homageless "I
Pieces, Op 2";
is Bright and L
Quartet No 4 in
12.00 News
12.05am Close

of the Carris's novel, with
Hutton as George
Smiley (5 p) £2.55
Weather

1.00 **World at One** with
Janice Noughtie

1.40 **The Archers** (1.15
Missing Forecast
1.40)

2.00 **Woman's Hour**
Presented by Jenni Murray
A discussion on childcare,
school hours and
during holidays; a feature
on the Victorian
photographer Julia
Margaret Cameron; an
interview with American
dancer Betsy Nunn; and
an item on how to
children's bedrooms

3.00 **Nurse: A Party for Borzoi**
by Alysia Raitt. On her
anniversary, Maggie and
Jack exchange presents
and the political novel,
With Natasha's Name
as Maggie and Philip Joseph
as Jack (5 p)

4.00 **News**

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz;
(London area FM-104.8); Radio
2: 90.2, Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-
92.4-94.8, LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM-
95.9, Greater London Radio: 1458kHz

...the archbishop
...seem to agree on very
...except the virtue of a
...system in a society
...there people have different
...political and religious views
...discussing things too
...a conversational style, not
...the chaplain rattles along at
...great speed, low-voiced and
...intensely serious. The arch-
...bishop weighs his words as if he
...conscious that he will even-
...be expected to substan-
...them, and his occasional
...outbursts of glee manifest
...incoherence. The chaplain
...though he never
...betrays the fact.

Eck Limes (Radio 4,
1.00pm), the new detective
serial, opens with a high
mortality rate: three elderly
men, found dead, one prob-
ably murdered. "Not a good
night for the old," says a police
officer, perceptively.

PO BOX 620, MILTON MA 01867-0620

هكذا من الامثلة

Defeat may lead to more for poor

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

The Government is expected to bring forward new proposals on social security payments to hard-up pensioners living in private homes in the wake of its sensational but short-lived defeat in the Commons on Tuesday night.

The disclosure came as it emerged that four members of Labour's shadow cabinet — Mr John Smith, Dr John Cunningham, Mr Tony Blair and Dr David Clark — were among 26 Labour MPs who left the Commons before the crucial second vote, which enabled the Government to turn the tables.

There was particular surprise and dismay among Labour MPs that Dr Cunningham, the Opposition's senior business manager, who went to Strasbourg yesterday, left early.

Mr Tony Newton, the Secretary of State for Social Security, promised to give serious consideration to the arguments raised by Labour and Tory MPs, who argued

Parliament 9

that income support should cover the full cost of fees charged by the homes and not fall around £40 a week short.

Much the same message came from Government sources, who said that ministers recognized there was a problem but also had a duty to safeguard the public purse.

With the separate Social Security Bill due to come before the Commons in the last week of the month, Mr Newton is expected to announce concessions.

One estimate of the cost of bowing to backbench pressure and paying the board and lodging costs of more than 100,000 pensioners in their eighties and nineties quoted in Government circles is £350 million a year.

Yesterday, at Westminster MPs digested the significance of the Government's first defeat of this Parliament and its startling reversal 10 minutes later. Neither Government nor Labour whips could take much comfort from the two votes in which the Government was first defeated by three but then won by 27 on the technicality of including the new clause guaranteeing full payment in the NHS and Community Care Bill.

Analysis of the division lists showed that 26 Labour MPs, including four members of the Shadow Cabinet, did not stay on for the crucial second vote.

Other leading Labour figures who voted in the first division but not in the second included Mr Michael Foot, Mr Bernie Grant, Mr Ken Livingstone, and Mr Clive Soley.

Playing the deadly games of Beirut



Lebanon at play and at war: Two Christian boys play war games in the burnt-out wreck of their father's car while, in the East Beirut streets nearby, a Christian platoon is on patrol. Meanwhile, in West Beirut yesterday, fresh fighting broke out between the pro-Iran Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal.

West can be defended 'without nuclear arms'

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

A new classified assessment produced by America's Joint Chiefs of Staff suggests that for the first time in 40 years Nato could now defend Western Europe against a Soviet invasion without resorting to nuclear weapons, according to a leading US congressman.

This apparently radical revision of Nato doctrine was disclosed by Mr Les Aspin, the Democratic chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, after he had read the document. His interpretation was broadly confirmed by Pentagon officials in private, but General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, strongly denied that the assessment suggested the

need for nuclear weapons in Europe was over.

With Democrats already battling for big reductions in the 1991 defence budget, Mr Aspin's assertion will increase pressure for big spending cuts. Nato has long argued that nuclear weapons were essential for the defence of Western Europe because of the huge superiority in conventional forces of the Warsaw Pact.

According to Mr Aspin, the new assessment suggests that the unilateral withdrawal of Soviet forces from Eastern Europe and the far greater warning time that Nato would have of a Soviet attack mean that Allied troops could probably resist an invasion.

Kohl relents over Poland

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Officials from East and West Germany and the four Second World War Allies agreed at their first meeting to prepare for German reunification here yesterday that Poland will have a seat at the talks whenever its western border is discussed.

While yesterday's talks were in progress, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who at first had rejected Polish demands for inclusion in the "two plus four" negotiations, telephoned President Mitterrand of France to say he now accepted that Poland had a right to take part in all talks involving its borders.

The call had been planned to take place a day earlier, after M Mitterrand at the weekend expressed the strongest support for Poland's case during a visit to France by President Jaruzelski of Poland and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Prime Minister.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, also pressed Poland's case during his visit to Bonn on Monday, when he

EC fears 6

met Herr Kohl and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Bonn Foreign Minister.

Anxious that the border question should not bog down the entire unification process, Herr Genscher arranged a meeting on Tuesday with M Roland Dumas, his French opposite number, at which they agreed that Poland should participate in the talks

whenever it was directly involved in their outcome.

Although Mrs Thatcher had been among the first world leaders to speak out on behalf of Poland, it is indicative of the importance to Herr Kohl of West Germany's relationship with France that it was only after M Mitterrand spoke out that he dropped his opposition to a Polish voice at the talks.

The decision on Poland was the only one announced at the end of the first six-hour session of the negotiations. ● Bash meetings: On Good Friday in Bermuda Mrs Thatcher is to have her third meeting in a year with President Bush. M Mitterrand is to meet the US leader in Florida the following Thursday.

Political sketch

Confused by the daze of the week

Had you wandered into the Chamber early yesterday afternoon, you would have felt as does one who has turned up early for Sunday lunch, to discover his hosts still finishing a late Sunday breakfast.

Parliament was still sitting. For the rest of Britain it was Wednesday, but here at Westminster, Tuesday was still in force. Debate had staggered on through the night. Battle-weary foot-soldiers lay, dazed, on the green benches. Screwed-up pieces of paper, screwed-up faces and screwed-up luncheon-engagements, littered the scene.

All Labour needed was to reach the hour when Prayers (before the day's business) begin. The day's business would then be cancelled and the Government's timetable wrecked. All kinds of plays were tried — an exasperated Mr Speaker at one point declaring: "No! Let me have first go! It is Wednesday upstairs but it may be Tuesday down here." Robin Cook, Labour's Health Spokesman, was aroused to a fury stilled only by the thought that if he didn't wind-up fast, he'd miss the chance to be on *The World at One*, whereupon he ended his Question and scuttled from the Chamber.

Dennis Skinner even tried to move a Writ for a by-election but had not got round to saying which or where, when Mr Speaker stopped him. Finally, "amid scenes of grave disorder" Mr Speaker adjourned the debate and ended Tuesday in time for police sniffer-dogs to sniff, and MPs to snatch a sandwich, before Wednesday began.

Wednesday was a disappointment. It was Questions to the Industry Secretary but, in keeping with his "hands-off" approach, Mr Ridley failed to turn up at all. No explanation was offered and nobody bothered to ask. The Fayed affair has taught us that, once Mr Ridley has decided that something is "not in the public interest", further inquiry is pointless. Ridley had perhaps deemed his appearance yesterday not to be in the public interest.

So we made do with his lieutenants, junior ministers John Redwood, Douglas Hogg, and Eric Forth. These

boys were in mischievous high-spirits.

Douglas Hogg is becoming a sort of Public School shill. He has entirely given up answering questions from Labour MPs, and uses each inquiry as the signal for a violent assault. Labour's spokesman, the effective Gordon Brown, asked about the state of industry.

"Last time the hon gentleman spoke," barked Hogg, "characterized his speech as a mixture of stale jokes and ignorance. This time he let out the stale jokes. Just a little more homework, please."

"Experience, Mr Speaker," he said, answering a Question from Labour's Roy Hogg, "has shown that the Labour Party doesn't have a clue how to manage the economy."

But it was when Labour's burly and excitable Scott Tomlinson, weighed in, fingers jabbing, on behalf of the steel industry, that Hogg really struck. The hon gentleman really must stop leading with his chin," he leered.

To Hogg's public-school Mut, fellow-minister John Redwood plays a scholarship-boy Jeff. Commons, "hands-off" Redwood is the acceptable face of Ridleyism. Your inquiry to this minister can elicit only one reply: he cannot help it. He is sorry that he cannot help it, and he would like to explain very carefully the reason why.

To colleagues and Opposition MPs alike, Redwood argued yesterday that the current level of trade promotion was as much as made sense: that Export Credit Guarantees were not in need of rescue; and that he had nothing to add to his boss's remarks about the Fayed, it was done in the soft and reassuring tones of a man who — should he despair of politics — could provide a marvellous voice-over on a patent relief from acid-indigestion.

When they finally drop the Bomb on us, Redwood should be the soft tones piped into every building advising us not to panic; but with all due haste to whitewash our windows, crawl under our desks, and wait.

Manufacturing industry may well be in need of such a man.

Matthew Parris

Gorbachov scrapes vote

Continued from page 1

knowledge of the company's further operations.

He asked Mr Gorbachov why he had allowed the speech and complained of "constant attacks" on his policy.

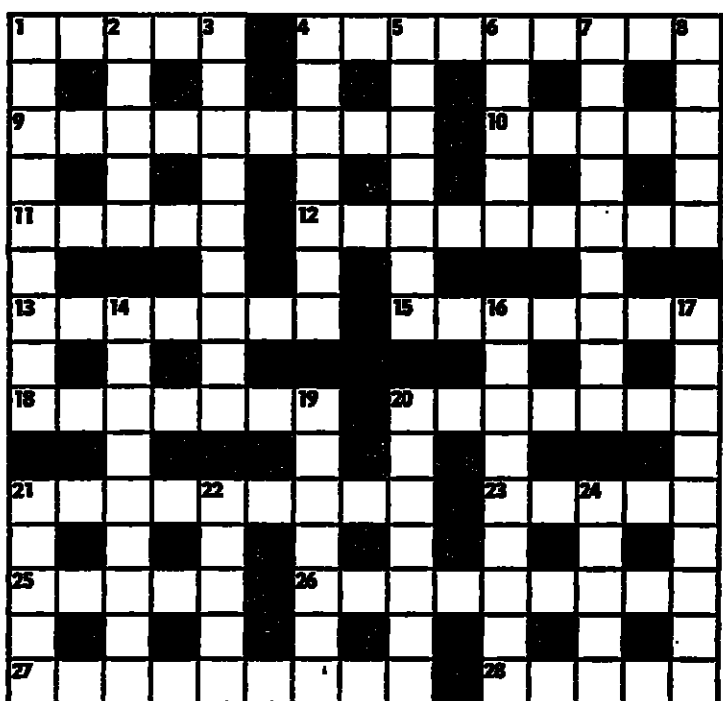
He said: "I ask you to let me work, as an individual and as Prime Minister. If not, I ask you to accept my resignation."

Mr Ryzhkov returned to his

seat to resounding applause. Later, in calmer mood, he returned to the platform to decline the nomination to stand against Mr Gorbachov.

The 2,245 members of the Congress of People's Deputies who have been attending this week's emergency session were entitled to vote on the nomination and the "trial" will be announced today.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,242



- ACROSS**
- Go west presumably? Absolutely (5).
 - Bar's also run out for a very low score (9).
 - Fancied the single girl holding a drink (9).
 - "Too much of _____ hast thou, poor Ophelia" (*Hamlet*) (5).
 - A blow from this is nothing to a Yorkshireman (5).
 - Having to admit the cockney girl's a tramp, perhaps (9).
 - Young English prince of the royal blood? No (7).
 - Act, by Jove, to end Ruth's discomfiture (7).
 - Hemmingway includes a pledge (7).
 - Corinthian team in informal clothes (7).
 - Turn some snow to spray (9).
 - Mischiefers for the Spanish to end in Paris (5).
- DOWN**
- Pop right inside for fish (5).
 - Told to illuminate a certificate if it has a recurrent theme (9).
 - One who's got it coming to him sees dread shape (9).
 - States girl may have this accent (5).
 - Living tree producing calcium oxide (9).
 - Florida hotel's in a state? Quite the opposite (5).
 - Being in the wrong scene, exit (9).
 - Shellfish a nonsense? Say why not (7).
 - Laurel, note, may be a killer (7).
 - Control position for loom (5).
 - It takes a charade to disguise such solid figures (9).
 - Not much of a fight (5).
 - Archduke could have been 13's father (9).
 - Northern Irishman needs a coat on the island (9).
 - Angry note dispatched — not completely satisfied (7).
 - Toys with sweets (7).
 - "With _____ tread, Upon our prey we steal" (Gilbert) (7).
 - Colour of a mollusc (5).
 - One who is stupid but may be capped (5).
 - Waller receives a note from the Norris (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,241

LOGIC EMPIRICAL
A R E D O A O E
T H O R N B I L L
E A T T I V P H E
C E N T R O P R A V I
O U E S L I T O N E D I A
R A I N I C O A T A B L E
C O S S O S C
F O U N D A T I O N S
R E F I T E S M
I O E N I R E T A L I A T E
L A S A O O L G A
L A N T H A N U M E X E R T

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

ALBACORE

a. White-bellied earth core

b. A public promenade

c. A large sunny fish

SKILLING

a. A small coin

b. Scandinavian housewifely skills

c. A small two-headed axe

FOGLE

a. To hoot/wink

b. The female Merlin

c. A silk handkerchief

HOUSE

a. Newhall College, Cambridge

b. A kind of pop music

c. Gaby's fan

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circles) 1731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733

M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 22

WEATHER

Most of England and Wales will be dry and fairly sunny. In the north-west, Northern Ireland, southern and central Scotland, it will be cloudier with rain at times and strong winds. Northern Scotland will be much brighter with sunny spells and showers. In the south, after a touch of ground frost, it will feel fairly warm. Outlook: dry with sunny spells in the south; cloudy with rain in the north.

ABROAD

WEDAY: t=thunder; d=dizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; c=clear; m=minor; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain										
	C	F	M	C	F	M	C	F	M	
Alaska	15	53	f	Malaga	20	68	f	Stockholm	10	50
Algeria	17	63	c	Madrid	20	68	f	Switzerland	10	50
Alexandria	18	64	c	Manila	27	81	f	Taipei	10	50
Athens	21	69	c	Mexico City	24	75	s	Tokyo	10	50
Austin	18	64	c	Montevideo	18	64	f	Winnipeg	10	50
Bahama	18	64	c	Moscow	18	64	f	Zurich	10	50
Bangkok	28	82	f	Mountain View	5	41	c			
Barcelona	17	63	c	San Francisco	10	50	c			
Berlin	18	64	c	Sao Paulo	24	75	s			
Bombay	18	64	c	Seattle	10	50	c			
Buenos Aires	18	64	c	Shanghai	10	50	c			
Burgas	18	64	c	Singapore	24	75	s			
Calcutta	22	72	f	Sydney	10	50	c			
Cairo	22	72	f	Taipei	10	50	c			
Cape Town	22	72	f	Tokyo	10	50	c			
Chicago	17	63	c	Toronto	10	50	c			
Cincinnati	17	63	c	Valencia	20	68	f			
Cologne	17	63	c	Vancouver	10	50	c			
Copenhagen	17	63	c	Vienna	17	63	f			
Cyprus	17	63	c	Warsaw	17	63	f			
Dakar	17	63	c	Washington	10	50	c			
Dallas	17	63	c	Wellington	10	50	c			
Darmstadt	17	63	c	Winnipeg	10	50	c			
Delhi	22	72	f	Zurich	10	50	c			
Dhaka	22	72	f							
Dublin	17	63	c							
Durham	17	63	c							
Edinburgh	17	63	c							
Geneva	17	63	c							
Hankow	17	63	c							
Hong K	22	72	f							
Isle of Man	17	63	c							
Jakarta	22	72	f							
Jeddah	22	72	f							
Kobe	22	72	f							
Kuala Lumpur	22	72	f							
London	17	63	c							
Los Angeles	17	63	c							
Lyons	17	63	c							
Manila	27	81	f							
Medan	22	72	f							
Melbourne	17	63	c							
Mexico City	24	75	s							
Montevideo	18	64	f							
Moscow	18	64	f							
Mountain View	5	41	c							
San Francisco	10	50	c							
Sao Paulo	24	75	s							
Seattle	10	50	c							
Shanghai	10	50	c							
Singapore	24	75	s							
Sydney	10	50	c							
Taipei	10	50	c							
Tokyo	10	50	c							
Toronto	10	50	c							
Valencia	20	68	f							
Vancouver	10	50	c							
Vienna	17	63	f							
Warsaw	17	63	f							
Washington	10	50	c							
Wellington	10	50	c							
Winnipeg	10	50	c							
Zurich	10	50	c							

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15C (59F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 81 per cent. Wind: SW to S, 24 hr, 24 hr to 6 pm, 8.3 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,031.2 millibars, rising.

1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Germany, Channel Islands, 14C (57F); lowest day min: Larvik, Sweden, 0C (32F); highest night max: Tine, Inner Hebrides, 1.5C (55F); highest sunrise: Isles of Scilly, 9.5 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 1

THURSDAY MARCH 15 1990

25

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6085 (+0.0065)
W German mark
2.7545 (+0.0034)
Exchange index
86.4 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1758.6 (+3.0)

FT-SE 100
2226.1 (+1.6)

USM (Datastream)
144.44 (+0.21)

Market report, page 32

TSA move
on boards

The Securities Association has placed prime responsibility for compliance with its rules on to chief executive officers and boards of securities companies, whether or not they are directly involved. The new guidelines were drawn up to take account of lessons learnt from the Blue Arrow affair.

Beazer up

Pre-tax profits of Beazer, the housebuilder and quarry group, rose by 16 per cent to £63 million in the six months to December. The interim dividend is to rise by a tenth to 2.7p.

News post

Miss Pat Mastandrea, joint managing director of Sky Television, has been made a senior vice-president of The News Corporation. She will assume the role of vice-president of international marketing and be involved in Sky Cable Direct Broadcasting Systems in the US.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2681.53 (+6.98)
Tel Aviv	Nasdaq	32352.13 (-268.44)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2881.23 (-4.38)
London	FT 30	1758.6 (+3.0)
Paris	CAC 40	5981.95 (-21.98)
Frankfurt	DAX	1862.84 (-4.64)
Madrid	IBEX 35	1107.98 (+1.71)
Amsterdam	AEX	1210.72 (+1.31)
Brussels	EURO	281.2 (-0.1)
Stockholm	OMX	86.79 (-0.01)
Copenhagen	OMX	77.16 (+0.46)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

ROSCOF	195.5p (+8p)
Telecom	437.5p (+10p)
BICO	94.5p (+9p)
Pressing	713.5p (+20p)
Sci. Aerospace	555.5p (+20p)
Hammond Adams	790.0p (+10p)
SmithKline	185.0p (+16p)
Rank Org	788.5p (+13p)
News Corp	507.7p (+10p)
REUTERS	
Financial Units	500p (+10p)
RAO Group	633.5p (+6p)
Liberty	425.0p (+10p)
Ballard	812.5p (+10p)
Southern Metal	140.5p (+12p)
Kleen-S-28	147.5p (+10p)
BTR	414.0p (+30p)
Champion	298.0p (+10p)
Champion	1.58 (+1.25)
SmithKline	500p (+30p)
Closing prices	
SEBAC	2438.5
SEBAC	582.1m

INTEREST RATES

Lending Bank Rate	15%
3-month Treasury Bill	7.5%
3-month Treasury Note	7.5%
3-month Treasury Bond	7.5%
3-month Treasury Inflation Protected Security	7.5%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.6085
£/DM	1.7545
£/FF	166.63
£/Yen	160.85
£/A\$	0.67
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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rental income helps lift CN&C to £4.5m

Clark, Nickolls & Coombs, the property investor and developer in which London Securities has a 29 per cent stake, lifted pre-tax profits by 6 per cent to £4.5 million in the year to end-December. The net asset value increased by 33 per cent to 120p per share.

Earnings per share climb from 14.46p to 15.25p. The final dividend is improved to 2p (1.575p), making 3p for the year, up 33 per cent. Mr Eric Lyall, the chairman, said the increase reflects strong growth in gross rental income and increased property trading profits. The shares eased 2p to 98p.

Trust's asset value up 12%

The net asset value at American Trust, the investment trust, increased by 12.7 per cent to 180.8p in the year to end-January. Pre-tax profits were ahead by 32.7 per cent to £6.39 million. Earnings per share rise from 3.97p to 5.18p, and the final dividend is 3.1p (2.65p), making 4.5p (3.9p) for the year. Investment income climbed by 37.6 per cent to £5.95 million.

Merivale in 10% decline

Merivale Moore, the property group, suffered a 10 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £3.7 million at its interim stage to December. Mr Grenville Dean, chairman, says present conditions impair forecasts for an improvement in profits, £12.1 million last time. The half-time dividend stays at 2.75p on earnings per share of 14.4p (17.4p).

Fired Earth advance

Higher than expected sales before Christmas at Fired Earth Tiles, the importer and retailer of handmade floor and wall tiles, lifted pre-tax profits by 30 per cent to £971,000 in the year to end-December. Turnover was up 47.2 per cent to £4.09 million. Earnings per share rise by 25 per cent to 12.15p and there is a final dividend of 2.25p (nil).

Mr Nicholas Kneale, the chairman, said 1990 had started well, with an increase in demand for Fired Earth's traditional products, and encouraging early signs from Merchant Tiles, the new range of lower price tiles. The shares slipped by 2p to 126p.

Allied profits up to £1.65m

Allied Insurance Brokers, the insurance broking firm, increased pre-tax profits by 39 per cent to £1.65 million in the year to December. The company is distributing a 2.5p final dividend, to make 3.5p for the year, an increase of 40 per cent. Neil Lewis Associates, the insurance company it acquired in August, made £1.05 million, in line with forecasts.

Way clear for Sealink sale

Sea Containers has removed the last obstacle to its sale of Sealink to the Swedish shipping line Stena and of most of its container assets to Tipton with an agreement to terminate an earlier deal with the US Irel Corporation. Irel was to buy Sea Containers' tank container business and will now be paid \$3.35 million in connection with the termination.

Clouds are lifting from BAe

British Aerospace blew away a good deal of the black cloud menacing the shares yesterday. Despite rumours that the European Commission is about to demand repayment of £38 million of sweeteners agreed by Lord Young, the outgoing Secretary of State for Trade when the Rover purchase was finalized, BAe has made no provision. There has been no pressure from the EC or the Government, said Prof Roland Smith, chairman.

The spectre of a hefty claim by partners in the Airbus project, reputedly £70 million or so, for production lost in the engineering strike was also dismissed. BAe has argued that such mishaps should be borne collectively in the traditional manner of partnerships.

BAe was also positive on the future of the European Fighter Aircraft project. Fears that it might be scrapped or mothballed now appear to have been grossly overdone. The same can be said of worries about BAe's programme of military work in light of the outbreak of peace in Europe.

The company also confirmed that the swap of 20 per cent share stakes between Rover and Hooda's British operations is to be finalized within the next few weeks.

A few negatives remain. BAe seems likely to have a further hefty charge, about the same as last year's net £40 million, due to the arcane workings of the current pension funding accounting standards. The remaining impact of the engineering strike should be about £35 million in the current year.

This leaves BAe set for a modest advance in the current year from £333 million to about £340 million. According to County NatWest Wood-Mac, the broker, this would give earnings of about 83p,

putting BAe shares on a humble 6 times earnings. Clearly there is substantial scope, over time, for a re-rating. The profile of the business is fast improving. Dependence on defence is being reduced by investment in cars, property and commercial aircraft. Joint ventures with Thomson CSF point the way to others with long-term benefits. The shares, up 20p to 505p yesterday, are cheap on a short-term view, too.

BTR

BTR has aptly proved after two decades of solid growth that it knows where it is going and knows what it wants.

The conglomerate has now joined the £1 billion club with pre-tax profits of £1.08 billion (£820 million) for the year end-December, and despite the shadows of doubt overhanging world economies, looks well set for further progress in the 1990s.

Even stripping out the £46 million positive impact at the pre-tax level from currency movements, there can be little carping with results. The final dividend rises from 6.7p to 8.3p, payable May 24, making 15p (12p) for the year.

The 1980s in general and 1989 in particular saw a general improvement in BTR's various financial ratios. Gearing, which at the half year stood at 55 per cent, was down to 46 per cent at year end. Gearing should continue to fall until the half-way mark this year, although it might rise again should acquisition opportunities be seized.

A large measure of last year's pre-interest profits growth was due to acquisitions, though internal efficiency and higher productivity played their parts. Organic growth was 15 per cent on an organic 5 per cent



Prof Roland Smith: brighter outlook at BAe

increase in sales. However, the clutch of last year's acquisitions is fast being bedded down so this year's organic percentage figure should grow.

Meanwhile, business opportunities abound and BTR may not be out of the bidding ring for too long. The next area of opportunity could well be the US where an eventual float of the Australian Nylux experience could happen. Another development this year could be a repeat of BTR's highly successful warrant issues.

Pre-tax profits should march forward to £1.24 billion this year to put the shares at 414p, down 8p, on a prospective p/e of 10.3. They remain attractive.

Beazer

There are two schools of thought about Beazer, the former West Country builder which spent \$1.8 billion buying the US giant Koppers two years ago. The first is that Beazer has shrewdly snapped up one of the top two ag-

gregates producers in the US, putting it in an unparalleled position to benefit from infrastructure spending. The second is that the company has boxed itself in by taking on £1 billion of debt that will take years to repay.

Fortunately, a third interpretation no longer seems plausible. Beazer's latest figures show no sign that it is heading the way of some other entrepreneurial companies of the late Eighties, whose over-ambitious expansion plans have necessitated an urgent capital reconstruction.

Pre-tax profits and earnings per share both rose by 16 per cent to £63 million and 13p respectively in the half year to December. Admittedly, the interest charge more than trebled to £47 million, but that was mainly due to the buying in of the off-balance-sheet vehicle used to buy Koppers in the closing months of 1988.

On a like-for-like basis, there was a £16 million turnaround in the UK to leave profits of £11 million from contracting, while the contribution from the US building materials interests rose by £7 million to £62 million. These improvements more than offset a £19 million downturn to £39 million from housebuilding in the UK.

The shares rose 5p to 158p on the announcement and if profits in the year to June fall no more than a fifth to £105 million, cutting earnings per share to 21.5p, the prospective p/e ratio will be 7. If the 10 per cent dividend increase is repeated with the final, the yield will be 7 per cent.

After revaluing its US mineral reserves at £1.8 billion, Beazer's net asset backing works out at something like 400p a share — though borrowings are at the same level as shareholders' funds. The shares are an asset play for the very patient.

Brierley 'is on way to rejection at Vickers'

Sir David Plastow, chairman of Vickers, has said that he expects shareholders to oppose a proposal by Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars at next month's annual meeting.

"The reaction from key institutional shareholders is that the company is correct in its view that Rolls-Royce should remain a part of Vickers," Sir David said.

Sir Ron, who is the biggest single shareholder in Vickers with 18.2 per cent held through his IEP Securities, said in a letter to Sir David last week that Vickers shares were trading on a price/earnings ratio of about eight times earnings and that a separately quoted Rolls-Royce would yield more than 12 times earnings.

Rolls-Royce is Vickers's top contributor to pre-tax profit, providing £24.7 million of a £83.6 million profit last year.

Sir David said that Rolls-Royce had made a strong start to this year's sales, with a 26 per cent rise in January on the same month last year.

Rights offer by Templeton

Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust, launched last May, is to raise £19 million through a complex one-for-two rights issue. Holders of ordinary shares or convertible loan stock originally sold as a package are offered a unit of five shares and 2.19 warrants for every ten shares or £10 of convertible held. The units are priced at 635p. Existing shareholders need to own shares in multiples of 1,000 (or 500 each) to be due a whole number of warrants.

Comment, page 27

As busy as a BTR



1989 RESULTS

Sales	£7025m	+ 28%
Profit before tax	£1080m	+ 32%
Earnings per share	36.1p	+ 26%
Dividends per share	15.0p	+ 25%



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March acquires Cobbold Roach

By Angela Mackay

March Group, the USM-listed engineering group, announced a £3.65 million rights issue and started its forecast diversification into financial services yesterday with the purchase of Cobbold Roach, Elders Finance's private client business, for £3 million.

At the same time the company, which builds Alfa Romeo and Porsche racing cars, reported a pre-tax loss of £420,598 for the year to end-October 1989, sharply better than the £4.5 million loss in 1988. After tax credits and extraordinary gains, it produced profits of £969,524, compared with a £3.9 million loss.

Cobbold Roach, which has about 15,000 clients overall, manages more than £600 million for about 6,500 portfolio clients, said Mr Roger Young, March's chief executive.

"Cobbold Roach has a client base concentrating on the UK's biggest growth market in financial services — second

generation property — where elderly people are devolving their assets to their children who then have some sizeable amounts to invest," he said.

While Cobbold made a loss of £203,000 in the year to end-June 1989, this included expenses and trading losses related to the European and Australian trading desks which have been closed down.

Cobbold Roach management will be subscribing almost £250 million cash for the equivalent loan stock convertible into March Group shares once the business shows a cumulative average annual return of more than 30 per cent.

The rights issue, which will raise £3.5 million net, is fully underwritten by Laing & Cruickshank and will be used partly to redeem £1 million of 7½ per cent preference shares due in April and to provide cheap working capital.

March shares ended up 1p at 41p.

The perils of portable pensions

Eighteen months after pensions became portable employees may find difficulty when changing jobs. Details in Family Money on Saturday.

One of Mr Nigel Lawson's last pension changes is coming into force. Do-it-yourself pensions are being offered for those who feel they can do better than the fund managers.

The dwindling rights of unit holders come under scrutiny

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

while investors who have made gains on their portfolios this year are guided on the best bid and breakfast deals.

One of the biggest tax changes to affect families comes into force on April 6 making it important for couples to review their finances. Family Money will help investors assess the risks and avoid the pitfalls.

THE TIMES

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1989-1990

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Hillsdown helps p...

Abbott



Shareholder to back M...

Striking at the City's heart

Hillsdown pensions holiday helps profits leap to £195m

By Melinda Wittstock

Hillsdown Holdings, Britain's largest meat, eggs and poultry producer, increased pre-tax profits by 30 per cent to £195.6 million for 1989, after a jump in margins from 5.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent.

However the shares fell 7p to 244p when it became clear that the results included a £10 million pensions holiday — to recur over the next 10 years as a result of changes in accounting standards.

Total dividend for the year rises 20 per cent to 7.2p on earnings up from 72.0p to 31.6p.

Most analysts had expected profits to reach £195 million without the pension fund holiday and said they were

somewhat disappointed with the results, even though Hillsdown had included about £10 million of closure and rationalization costs above the line.

This aside, Hillsdown managed strong underlying growth in the face of exposure to the sluggish property, housebuilding and furniture markets and a loss of sales earlier in the year as a result of health fears over salmonella and listeria.

On his way to Bulgaria to discuss joint ventures, Mr Harry Solomon, Hillsdown chairman, said £10 million had been knocked off profits as a result of listeria and salmonella, while rising tea prices had claimed another £5

million. BSE or "mad cow disease" did not have any impact on meat sales.

But Hillsdown, whose food business now accounts for 80 per cent of sales as a result of last May's £215 million acquisition of Premier Brands and the disposal of its Cartwright Bruce stationary group, boosted operating profits in its food division by 34 per cent to £141 million.

Much of the growth came from the food processing and distribution side, up 84 per cent to £95.4 million — including a £23 million six-month contribution from Premier Brands.

Poultry and eggs managed just a 10 per cent rise in

operating profits to £20.4 million, recovering from just a £3 million contribution in the first half to more than £17 million in the second half. Operating profits in the fresh meat and bacon division climbed 18 per cent to £25.4 million.

Despite a difficult furniture market, Hillsdown increased operating profits in the division by 20 per cent to £16.7 million.

Housebuilding and property profits were up 30 per cent to £57 million.

Hillsdown has ruled out a bid for Berisford International, the food and property group it attempted to acquire four years ago.

Asbestos charges hit profit at T&N

By Graham Searjeant

T&N, the motor components and engineering group, has increased its dividend by 12 per cent to 10.75p a share despite an 8 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £84 million in 1989.

Earnings per share fell from 26.4p to 24.1p.

Operating profits, though hurt by rationalization costs, increased by 14 per cent to £123 million out of a 13 per cent rise in turnover to £1.12 billion.

But profits were hit by almost doubled charges for interest and for legal and compensation costs from the group's former asbestos business.

Profits were below earlier City estimates because demand fell in some areas in the last quarter of 1989. But the effect had been discounted on the stock market, leaving the shares unchanged at 192p.

Mr Colin Hope, the new chairman, said that the group's balance sheet asset value was almost as much as the share price at 183p a share after including a £53 million property revaluation surplus and the unquantified benefit of the group's settlement with Hill Samuel over the AE takeover.

Mr Hope said the slowdown in demand appeared to have stabilized. T&N should be able to offset the effects thanks to rationalization completed in some subsidiaries, notably the turbine-blade and motor-piston businesses, and from investment made to cut costs and prepare for new original equipment contracts with Nissan in the UK and other motor manufacturers in international markets.

Capital spending rose from £61.6 million to £96.5 million and acquisitions cost £37 million against £14 million from disposals, sending borrowings up £102 million to £153 million. The interest charge consequently rose from £12 million to £21 million. But Mr Hope said this was five times covered by profits.

Asbestos-related disease costs jumped from £10.7 million to £20.1 million, mainly due to an additional provision of £9 million (against £5 million in 1988).

The provisions relate to the extra costs from the break-up of the original asbestos manufacturers' legal co-operative in the US, where the bulk of product-liability costs arise. Mr Hope said he expected annual asbestos charges to continue at about 1 per cent of turnover.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Too many pills for the SmithKline bankers

Not since the great electrical mergers of 20 years ago has there been so much blood on the walls as has spurted from the amalgamation of SmithKline and Beecham. For a group which appeared to have little wrong with it, the £500 million provision for restructuring smacks of any combination of:

1. Unexpected inefficiencies in both companies;
2. Dramatic synergies to be gained from eliminating overlap between the two companies; or
3. Preparing for some very hard times to come.

My guess would be a bit of each. It is a sorry fact of manufacturing life that some of the best investment made in industry is investment in closures. SKB's wholesale elimination of factories, offices, managers and workers is expected to cut costs by £100 million a year, and follows similar stable cleaning exercises elsewhere on the drugs scene. Drug companies enjoy phenomenal profit margins, but does not mean they can be profligate on the costs side. SKB, particularly, is looking miserably at 1994 when its top product, the ulcer treatment Tagmet, loses its patent protection and SKB has to hold its corner against the low cost generic manufacturers. No joke, with that product alone accounting for £650 million.

Meanwhile, the shares also stand under the shadow of a downgrading of the expected growth rates which analysts have slimmed from 20 per cent to nearer 15 per cent, and the disappointment that Eminase, the heart attack drug, does not offer such a premium performance as early trials suggested.

Finally SKB seems to have made a Horlicks of selling many of its non-core businesses, as diverse as Yardley cosmetics and Marmite. It appears that by hoisting a world-wide "for sale" sign, the buyers were frightened away because

they believed, rightly or wrongly, that SKB could find no buyer privately. Talks go on... and on. And the £1.75 million debt mountain must be costing the best part of half a million a day to finance. That's an awful lot of pills for the banker.

Bare all, Berisford

The City Takeover Panel does not normally interest itself in the New York property scene nor in the affairs of directors' children. But when the two come together and a listed company in a takeover situation is involved, the the lords round at the Stock Exchange Tower should begin to take notice.

One shareholder of Berisford International has now had the details of the links explained in a letter, long delayed, from the company, but the remaining shareholders remain in the dark. The one shareholder, Associated British Foods, had the subject aired at the annual meeting, and it appears that Ephraim Margulies, the former chairman and proud father, was not as frank as he might have been in front of the owners of the company.

Mr Margulies, who likes to "buy a little, sell a little and with God's help make a little", should not be spared exposure of the full details to all shareholders.

The New York property business is notoriously volatile and frequently catches the locals unawares, which could explain why such a highly paid Berisford as Howard Zuckerman fell foul of the cycle and led his company into losses. But until the full story is told to the whole audience, there will remain an uncomfortable feeling that there must be something to hide. The very cornerstone of the takeover code is that all shareholders are treated in the same manner. In this case, even though Berisford has announced a takeover approach, this is not the case.

Small man's rights

Templeton is making a rights issue for its Emerging Markets Trust within a year of launch on the back of a performance that should equally please both big institutions and small shareholders. The shares are up to 126p, in line with asset value, which means that Mark Mobius, the manager, has achieved 30 per cent growth on the 97p per share subscription proceeds in markets from Turkey to Mexico. The aim of avoiding a discount on asset value has thus far been met without buying in stock.

Some small shareholders may, however, be offended by the terms of the rights package. To offer the maximum number of warrants allowed by the Stock Exchange, holders will be offered, as the incentive part of the package, 2.19 warrants per 10 shares. This means that

stock must be held in multiples of 1,000 to achieve a whole number of warrants, any fractions being sold for the company. A holder of, say 625 shares (originally subscribed in multiples of 125) would therefore lose nearly 2 warrants as a result of a double rounding down exercise.

If, as is likely, that investor also holds £625 convertible loan stock subscribed with the shares in a single unit, he or she would be short of 3.75 warrants worth about £1.60. That is insignificant in money terms and Kitcat & Aitken, the broker, points out that small holders can still have more warrants than if the rights unit had included a round 2. But this is yet another case of a company not catering in detail for the small investors it theoretically seeks to attract.

Abbott gives a good account

JULIAN HERBERT



Successful trio: David Abbott, right, with chief executive Peter Mead and the dummy used in Abbott's Volvo campaign

Abbott Mead Vickers attracted £30 million worth of new accounts on to its books last year, a sign, it says, that in tough times good agencies come into their own (Sam Parkhouse writes).

The group has won the chance to promote such clients as Hoover, Revlon, the Nationwide Building Society and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Mr James McDaniel, finance director, said that in

all, new business accounted for half of the 21 per cent pre-tax profits advance to £5.85 million.

The agency's turnover improved by a fifth to £122.6 million in a year when some competitors floundered. Mr David Abbott, the chairman, said when advertising has to work harder, the better agencies do even better.

In a survey by Campaign, the in-

dustry's magazine, Abbott was voted top for creativity.

During the year, the group stepped away from the possibility of doing "a wrong deal" when discussing a merger with Scall McCabe Sloves, preferring to write off £590,000 in costs.

The dividend rose 20 per cent to 7.2p on earnings of 27.85p (23.52p). The shares gained 4p to 260p.

Shareholders vote to back Mirman

By Gillian Bowditch

Miss Sophie Mirman, founder and chairman of Sock Shop which is fighting for its corporate life, had the support of shareholders at the group's Extraordinary General Meeting yesterday.

Although only six turned up, they voted in favour of a resolution to increase borrowing powers to £20 million.

Many other shareholders sent messages of support on their proxy cards. "Best of luck, love" was the message from one, which seemed to sum up the general sentiment.

Retailers and analysts believe the company may need more than luck. They are concerned that although the group has been in talks about refinancing for some months, there has been silence about the identity of potential rescuers. "They may be talking to

private investors but no-one has heard who they are," said one retailer. "Any public company considering taking a stake would have to justify it to its shareholders and that may be hard to do."

Mr Peter DuBuisson, one of the joint administrators running Sock Shop, said he was optimistic the group would survive. However, he said it was "far too early" to say when a refinancing package would be in place or what it would comprise.

The administrators have until May 21 to come up with a proposal to put to shareholders who have seen their shares, now frozen at 34p, fall from a peak of 325p.

If no proposal is forthcoming by then, the administrators can apply to the court for an extension.

N&P loses £6m in abandoned float

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

The National & Provincial Building Society has written off £6.1 million incurred in its preparations to become the second building society to convert to a public company.

It had also overstated its 1988 profits, the society announced.

Mr Ben Thompson-McCausland, group managing director, said, however, that the money spent on legal activity and professional fees was an investment, although the society had indefinitely postponed any flotation plans. The society, the sixth largest, now has voting systems in place which could be "pulled off the shelf when and if the opportunity requires it."

N&P has adjusted its 1988 profits down from £94 million to £92.2 million. This reflects market value accounting of

the society's gilt investments, which immediately writes off any payments over par for gilts.

The 1989 pre-tax profits at £107.7 million are 17 per cent above the adjusted 1988 figure and 14 per cent ahead of the profits as originally stated. This compares with £107.8 million reported by the Cheltenham & Gloucester, the seventh largest society, last month.

N&P increased its bad debt provision from £2.2 million to £4 million, despite a fall in its domestic long-term arrears during the year.

The results were part of the society's long-term strategy and the strength of this was reflected in the recent uprating of the society by the Japanese from AA minus to AA, said Mr Thompson-McCausland.

Striking at the City's heart

The latest spate of job losses in the Square Mile are reaching into what was once the very heart of the City — the International Stock Exchange itself. Peter Rawlins, appointed chief executive of the Exchange in November, warned then that there would be an internal shake-up. According to a report in today's edition of the magazine *Computer Weekly*, that is what has taken place. Important cutbacks have apparently been made in its information technology division, with a large number of technical staff laid off across the board. Up to 100 such jobs have been lost in the past few weeks, including several heads of departments and senior consultants, and a further 60 technical workers in the Exchange's internal management services division received redundancy notices this week — effectively dismantling the entire operation. The Exchange points out that some of these people will be redeployed, and that the functions of this now disbanded division will be "devolved." Its Strategic Research Unit, which lost 10 senior consultants last month, has also now been disbanded, with the loss of a further eight jobs. Asked if redundancies were planned elsewhere, a spokeswoman said: "No, not yet." She said Rawlins was "studying a restructuring report, looking at the Exchange as a whole, and has promised to come up with various proposals by Easter."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

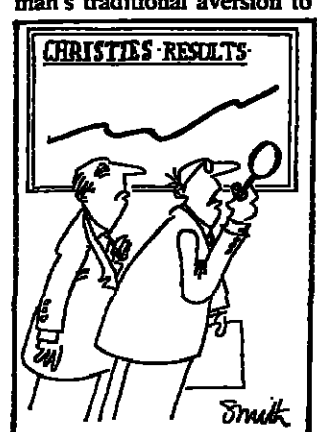
Expanding for Sumo

If the waistline of dashing Julian Tregoning, a director of fund management group Save & Prosper, suddenly starts to expand at an alarming rate, there is an explanation. For Tregoning, hitherto renowned for his trim, sporting physique, tells me that he has all but agreed — admittedly, foolishly — to take part in a Sumo wrestling contest with a Sumo wrestler in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of S&P's

Japanese unit trusts. It is the brainchild of in-house public relations manager, Nichola Hoyes, who has tracked down a Sumo wrestling club in Islington, and will have a price to pay. For Tregoning tells me that he will, of course, have to practice ahead of the April spectacle, and will only consider that he is ready to compete — "once I can successfully throw Nichola across the room."

Lingo leaders

A gaggle of top executives, led by John Raisman, deputy chairman of British Telecom, have formed the latest group to tackle the British businessman's traditional aversion to



"It appears to be genuine."

foreign languages. Linked to 1992 and all that, the Lead Body in Languages has the support of the Department of Employment and is part of the Government's plan to create a new system of occupational standards by 1991. It has drawn members from Hill Samuel, in the form of director Sir Hugh Cortazzi, and from the boards of BP, Costain, Barclays and British Airways. Raisman looks particularly qualified to head the team — he has become fluent in French, Portuguese and Spanish from his travels with his previous employer, Shell.

● It had to happen... drive in divorce. Couples in the US state of Oregon can now get a divorce from the comfort of their cars. All they have to do is drive up to the window, where divorce papers are duly served through a hole in the glass — bullet proof, of course.

Taking the strine

Given that Markheath, the Australian property company 49 per cent-owned by John Spalvin's Adsteam, is in the middle of a supposedly hostile £60 million bid for Camford Engineering, the Camford board was surprisingly hospitable to the suitors after the Camford annual meeting. Since Markheath owns 29 per cent of Camford, its two directors who attended the meeting — MD Paul Bobroff and Adsteam representative Ian Creber — had been invited, along with the 100 or so shareholders there, to stay on for lunch. The invitation, originally extended some three weeks ago — before the bid — was confirmed, post the bid, and they were offered seats at the same table as Camford chairman Brian Cox — a one-time director of Barclays Merchant Bank — and chief executive Dennis Keech. "They were having such a convivial lunch, you would never have thought that they were divided by a hostile bid," one astonished onlooker told me. "They all looked very relaxed." Given the lavish buffet — lobster, smoked salmon, roast beef — another bemused shareholder said: "Perhaps this was Camford's last supper." Fueling further speculation that the shouting was all but over — even though Camford has yet to produce its defence document — Keech revealed that he has even been learning Australian. He opened the meeting with "Hallo coppers," and, at one point, quipped: "Fair Dinkum."

Carol Leonard

SIMON

The Equipment, Industrial Services and Contracting Group

1989 — GROWTH TARGETS ACHIEVED

Profit before interest	£43.4m + 27%
Profit before tax	£38.6m + 19%
Earnings per share	38.4p + 17%
Dividend per share	15.5p + 15%

Proposal to raise approximately £46.4 million, net of expenses, by way of 1 for 4 Rights Issue of Ordinary shares at 285p per share.

"1989 saw the further development of the Group and the achievement of the initial objectives of our strategic plan. During this year we have built upon the achievements of the previous year and attained our growth targets. The markets which we serve are currently buoyant and we have our attentions closely focused on those areas that will provide sustained earnings growth for our shareholders. We shall continue to grow in our chosen areas of activity."

R E J Roberts, Chairman

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THE CHANGING FACE OF A SILENT GENIUS.



The joke of the decade. A killer. Ready? Get this: don't step on that spider... it might be Lon Chaney.

No? But it's the joke of the decade! Well, it was in the 20s. But then, in the 20s there was probably more chance of Lon Chaney being a spider than a spider being a spider.

Born on April Fool's Day, 1883 to deaf and dumb parents, Chaney became one of the biggest movie-stars of the silent era through extraordinary portrayals of all manner of unfortunate, often grotesque individuals: clowns, hunchbacks, phantoms, vampires, evil grandmothers, drunken husbands...

everything from a crooked ventriloquist masquerading as a parrot-selling old lady (*The Unholy Three*) to an armless knife-throwing circus star (*The Unknown*).

It seemed there was no character this silent genius couldn't create; no contortion he wasn't capable of; no face he couldn't bring to life.

A bit like Epson's latest printers really.

Take the GQ-5000 laser printer, for example. Like old Lon, it can do things with characters and faces that you didn't think could be done with characters and faces. Unlike old

Lon, it doesn't have to spend hours on end in front of a mirror, plastered in make-up with funny teeth stuffed up its cake-hole. It does the business almost instantly.

The GQ-5000, you see, has 'scaleable fonts'. Sounds painful doesn't it? It's not. It's wonderful. It means you can select any typeface from 80 built-in fonts; choose any size between 5pt and 240pt; print landscape or portrait in bold, medium or italics; underline, extend, flip or condense letters — by simply pressing a button or two.

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The SQ-850 is so quiet you'll hardly notice it's there, let alone that it's whizzing along faster than any comparable ink-jet (600 cps in draft mode and 198 cps in LQ).

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Lon Chaney had to sweat his way through almost 150 films to earn the title *The Man of a Thousand Faces*.

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Taxing problems for Major

Rodney Lord looks at the steps the Chancellor may take as he picks his way through a political and fiscal minefield in the approach to next week's Budget



BUDGET PREVIEW

The Chancellor, Mr John Major, has not been dealt the easiest of hands for tax reform in 1990. The paramount need to get inflation down suggests that fiscal policy should be kept tight, leaving no scope for net cuts in taxes and very possibly a need for tax increases. Nor does Mr Major have the benefit of a fresh electoral mandate for change — on the contrary, the Government is in political trouble and already facing embarrassment over the introduction of the poll tax which, though it is not a Budget measure, may have taken some of the gilt off the tax reform theme.

Despite these unpromising circumstances, the Chancellor still has some shots in his locker. While net tax cuts may be ruled out, scope for change can always be created by raising some taxes while cutting others. He has also inherited from Mr Lawson a far-reaching reform of the taxation of husband and wife which comes into effect from April 1 and is likely to feature prominently in the Budget.

Income Tax and NICs: Other decisions on income tax may be less palatable this year. This is not the year to make further progress on cutting the basic rate or making any additional changes to the rate structure. The Chancellor is more likely to want to take money out of the economy rather than putting it back in, and one of the least conspicuous ways of doing so on any scale would be to refrain from

raising personal allowances in line with inflation. This would raise an additional £1.6 billion.

There is a good case on paper for further changes to the structure of National Insurance Contributions which would align them more closely with income tax. These could include abolishing the upper limit, making perks liable for NICs and reducing the sharpness of the step increases in employer NICs. But the political appeal of such moves is probably slight, and after the reforms in the last Budget, the likelihood of further action may be small.

More probable is action on some of the reliefs for income tax. On the downside, the benefit of enjoying a company car seems certain to be taxed more highly. The only question is whether Mr Major will continue the 10 per cent-a-year increase favoured, apart from one year, by Mr Lawson, or whether he will decide on more punitive treatment.

More agreeably, he might consider some additional relief for the costs to working mothers of bringing up children. He has been under considerable pressure to make a move in this direction and the possible labour shortage threatened in the 1990s by demographic changes might give him the economic incentive. Whether tax relief is the appropriate means is another matter.

Taxes on savings: Mr Lawson, in the course of six Budgets, made consid-

erable changes in the taxation of saving, reducing the privileges of institutional saving and giving additional incentives to employee share ownership and other aspects of what has come to be called popular capitalism. One feature of this was to limit the privileges attaching to home ownership, and it will be interesting to see whether Mr Major continues to keep the lid on the ceiling for mortgage interest relief. Further technical changes are likely in the pensions and life assurance areas, but this seems unlikely to be the year for any substantive moves.

More likely is some further improvement in the incentives for employees or small savers. Recent changes to personal equity plans have considerably increased their appeal and Mr Major may want to build further on that.

Adjusting Excise duties for inflation

	Beer	Cigarettes	Whisky	Petrol
Present Excise duty	18.5p	98.1p	£4.73	20.4p
Price change*	1.7p	7.4p	£1.9p	1.8p
New Excise duty	20.2p	£1.055	£5.15	22.2p

* Includes consequential VAT increase

Profit-related pay has been less successful and may be due either for a shot in the arm or quiet burial.

Independent taxation could increase opposition to the arrangements for composite rate taxation of building society and bank deposits. Because composite rate tax is not reclaimable by non-taxpayers, many wives with small savings will not benefit from having an independent tax allowance. Scrapping CRT would reverse its extension from building societies to banks by Mr Lawson in 1984.

Indirect taxes: The general philosophy of the Government has been to cut taxes on income and, if anything, increase them on spending. This has been done both by raising the rate of VAT in 1979 and extending its coverage in later Budgets, and by raising and restructuring ex-

cise duties. If tax increases are on the agenda, increases in sales taxes must be a possibility.

Against this, further increases in excise duties, most of which are already high by European standards, are constrained by EC pressure to harmonize — or, in the jargon, approximate — taxes in different member countries in the run-up to 1992. Increases would also raise prices which would give an unfortunate signal with inflation at its present level.

Business taxes: The Confederation of British Industry has seldom been backward in calling for a reduction in Corporation Tax. This year, it may have a better case than it sometimes has in view of falling profits and a slowdown in investment. What the CBI wants is not (this year) a cut in the rate but

an increase in allowances which would give a greater incentive to investment. It is also concerned, as are many tax economists, by the lack of indexation in the system of company taxation. Doing anything about either of these things, however, would undo some of Mr Lawson's work in 1984. It might also relax the squeeze on pay.

Apart from the main corporate tax issues and several technical matters, such as the long-standing question of exchange rate gains and losses, there may well be scope for further improvements to the regime for small business.

Environmental: If Mr Major is looking for a new flavour, the obvious one is environmental taxes. It would not be entirely new because Mr Lawson made a start with the tax differential for unleaded petrol, but a number of other environmental issues susceptible to regulation by taxation have risen over the horizon since then. Most prominent among them is global warming which appears to be caused by carbon dioxide emissions. The answer in principle might be a carbon tax or taxes. The trouble is that to make much difference, the tax would need to be high and be matched by similar taxes in other advanced countries.

TOMORROW

The economic outlook

Effective replies to pleas over childcare costs

By Andrew Dilnot

Calls for tax relief on childcare costs have been the loudest pre-Budget pleas.

Such an innovation would be wrong in that if the aim is to encourage back into the labour market mothers who cannot afford to work, there are more effective, cheaper, fairer and administratively simpler ways.

The most radical suggestion is that employer-provided childcare should not be taxed, and that privately incurred childcare costs should be tax-deductible. The cost to the State would vary with the tax rate of the parent and the level of care. The tax reduction where £120 a week is spent, for a higher rate taxpayer, would be £48 (40 per cent of £120). For a basic rate taxpayer spending £20, it would be £5 (25 per cent of £20), and for a non-taxpayer nothing.

The problem of childcare costs making work financially unattractive is likely to be far greater for the low paid. To distribute money available for childcare so that those with more to spend receive more is wrong.

Alternatives are available. First, tax relief could be limited to the basic rate, so that the higher rate taxpayer in our example would gain only £30

(25 per cent of £120). This would restrict the cost a little.

A further restriction would be to impose a limit, say £40 a week, on the amount relieved of tax. This, with the basic rate restriction, would cut the value to higher rate taxpayers to £10 a week (25 per cent of £40).

A third option would be to offer a flat-rate subsidy to employers for each childcare place provided. This would help non-taxpayers and those who could not afford £40 a week, but not those without workplace facilities.

A fourth option would be vouchers for all with pre-school children to help pay for workplace care, care elsewhere or paid care at home, helping non-taxpayers, and those without workplace facilities, as much as those with.

There are 3.5 million under-fives. Vouchers of £10-a-week, if all used, would cost almost £2 billion, enough to cut income tax to below 24p.

A rather different option would be to increase state-provided nursery education.

Making it easier for mothers to rejoin the labour force is worthy, and, with the prospect of labour shortages, may be vital. Blanket tax relief is the least attractive method.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch/g (p)	Yearly ch/g (p)	Daily ch/g (c)	Yearly ch/g (c)	Daily ch/g (US\$)	Yearly ch/g (US\$)
The World	743.9	-0.6	-11.8	-0.3	-9.9	-0.4	-12.2
(free)	142.1	-0.6	-11.9	-0.4	-10.0	-0.4	-12.3
EAFE	1316.0	-0.9	-15.5	-0.9	-12.9	-0.7	-15.9
(free)	135.1	-0.9	-15.8	-1.0	-13.2	-0.7	-16.1
Europe	731.3	0.1	-3.9	0.2	-3.9	0.3	-4.3
(free)	157.2	0.1	-3.9	-0.1	-4.1	0.3	-4.2
Nth America	514.2	-0.2	-4.4	0.0	-4.7	0.0	-4.8
Nordic	1545.5	0.0	-0.7	0.1	-1.1	0.2	-1.1
(free)	243.1	0.1	3.4	0.1	2.9	0.3	2.9
Pacific	3050.7	-1.5	-22.1	-1.8	-18.2	-1.3	-22.4
Far East	4480.8	-1.6	-22.8	-1.7	-18.6	-1.4	-22.9
Australia	317.6	0.3	-8.8	0.0	-5.8	0.5	-8.9
Austria	2133.8	-0.3	-43.6	-0.2	-44.9	-0.1	-43.0
Belgium	893.8	-0.7	-9.2	-0.6	-9.6	-0.5	-9.6
Canada	559.4	-0.3	-8.8	-0.4	-9.9	-0.1	-7.2
Denmark	1401.3	-0.1	6.5	0.0	5.7	0.2	6.0
Finland	115.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.7	0.1	-0.6
(free)	151.9	-1.2	1.9	-1.2	1.4	-1.0	1.5
France	779.7	0.7	-3.6	0.8	-3.8	0.9	-4.0
Germany	952.9	-0.1	3.8	0.0	4.8	0.1	3.4
Hong Kong	2261.1	-0.5	1.9	-0.3	1.6	-0.3	1.5
Italy	368.1	0.2	-4.5	0.2	-5.1	0.4	-4.9
Japan	4724.7	-1.6	-23.4	-1.7	-19.3	-1.4	-23.7
Netherlands	900.5	0.6	-4.8	0.7	-4.2	0.8	-5.1
New Zealand	91.7	0.3	-11.1	0.2	-10.4	0.5	-11.4
Norway	1647.2	0.2	22.7	0.1	22.6	0.4	22.2
(free)	288.1	0.0	23.3	-0.1	23.2	0.2	22.8
Sing/Malay	2070.5	-0.7	3.8	-0.6	2.0	-0.5	3.4
Spain	210.2	-0.1	-11.2	-0.1	-11.0	0.1	-11.6
Sweden	1602.6	0.0	-8.6	0.1	-9.1	0.2	-9.0
(free)	222.8	0.4	-8.0	0.5	-8.4	0.6	-8.3
Switzerland	891.2	-0.6	-2.5	-0.5	-3.9	-0.4	-2.9
(free)	135.7	-0.6	-2.7	-0.5	-4.1	-0.4	-3.1
UK	663.0	0.2	-6.0	0.2	-6.0	0.4	-8.4
USA	462.8	-0.2	-4.2	0.1	-4.6	0.1	-4.6

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

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Reduced profits at Olivetti 'likely to cut dividends'

By Our Financial Staff

Olivetti, the Italian computer manufacturer, says it is likely to cut its 1989 dividends because of reduced profits. Signor Vittorio Cassoni, Olivetti's managing director, said that profits from the 18 largest American computer makers had fallen by an average of 45 per cent and Olivetti would be near that average or slightly better.

In December Olivetti said it expected lower 1989 profits instead of stable earnings forecast a few months earlier in August. The group made net profits of 356 billion lire (£175 million) in 1988.

The company's 1988 dividends were 1,340 per ordinary and preferred share and 360 per non-convertible savings share.

It will release 1989 financial

results after an April 27 board meeting, but said yesterday that "the dividends probably will be lower."

Signor Cassoni said 1989 turnover rose about 7.5 per cent to more than 1.9 trillion.

"That is lower than our expectations, but above the sector average," he added.

Olivetti ordinary shares moved with the overall downward trend on the Milan bourse yesterday, falling 1.20 in early trading to L6,290.

Commenting on the computer sector's prospects this year, Signor Cassoni said: "I believe that there will be a good earnings recovery in 1990 for some companies, including Olivetti. We have rapidly changed our product range and the client response was very positive."

Only 6% take-up for Cityvision issue

By Melinda Wittstock

Cityvision, the fast-growing video rental group which last month beat City expectations with a 130 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.5 million, said that its £26 million rights issue had flopped.

Of the 21.67 million shares issued in the one-for-six cash call at 120p, only 1.4 million, or 6 per cent, were taken up.

Cityvision shares, which fell from a high of 145p to just 106p after stock market turbulence in the immediate aftermath of the rights issue, were yesterday down 1p at 105p.

The rights issue was fully underwritten by Hoare Govett, which has until 3.30pm

today to sell the remaining shares at a premium in the market, after that the shares revert to the sub-underwriters.

Mr Keith Anderson of Hoare Govett, Cityvision's brokers, said he thought it unlikely the shares would be sold at 120p by this afternoon.

He blamed the low response — one of the poorest ever — on both stock market turmoil in late February and "unfounded rumours" in early March that Mr David Quayle, formerly of the B&Q do-it-yourself chain, who joined Cityvision as chairman in 1986 when the shares were at just 20p, would be leaving to join TVS as chairman.

Manufacturing roars back

After a series of articles in *The Times* on the state of British industry,

John Banham, director general of the CBI, responds with a personal view



BRITAIN'S LOST BATTLE

A recent series in *The Times* (Britain's Lost Battle) suggested that "overseas markets have been lost to competitors, and that whole industries have virtually disappeared."

How do these assertions square with the facts? Poorly, I suggest.

● Manufacturing export volumes in January were 40 per cent up on the average for 1985. The increase was 46 per cent for motor cars, 65 per cent for other consumer goods and 61 per cent for capital goods. And January was a month when there were several industrial disputes in the engineering industry.

● For the three months ending in January, UK manufacturing exports rose nearly twice as fast as world trade. Britain's volume share of world manufactured exports is, in fact, rising. We export more per person than Japan.

● The prices of manufactured goods leaving our factories are rising at only about 5 per cent — nearly in line with the situation in most competitor

countries. The rate of increase has been constant for over a year.

● Manufacturing output is higher now than it has ever been; for the last quarter of 1989, it was 13 per cent above the comparable quarter a decade earlier.

● Statistics on corporate earnings, investment, productivity, innovation and employment tell a similar story; the supply side improvements of the last five years are no mirage.

Indeed, the recent record of industry after industry is one of which we can be justly proud — steel, petrochemicals, plastics, information technology, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, automotive engineering, electronics (and the list goes on and on). World-class businesses find Britain an excellent place to produce the goods that the world wants to buy. How many know that the structural steel in many high-rise buildings in San Francisco came from Cleveland, in the North-east of England, not Ohio? Services have been



Best of British: John Banham, left, cites Ron Garrick, top, of Weir, and Tim Kelleher, of Verson transformed, as passengers on British Airways or users of British ports will attest.

And there is no shortage of anecdotes to flesh out the bare statistics. In a recent three-week tour of major export markets in the Middle and Far East, I received not one single complaint about quality, price, delivery or service provided by British firms.

All this has been made possible by the efforts of men like Ian Harris, chief executive of the Bonas Machine Company of Gateshead, who was once a high-flier with a multi-national computer company. He rejected a senior management position in America to join Bonas, a small firm, going through a difficult phase, producing weaving machinery.

Eventually, he bought the company, which was losing

£3.2 million on a turnover of £6.4 million and transformed it into a world leader in its own technological innovation. Now, Bonas has more than trebled its sales and earned £2.5 million last year.

Then there is Ron Garrick. He took over in 1982 as managing director of the Weir Group, a company which had been one of the first engineering firms to feel the chill winds of recession. Two years earlier, the group had an £8.3 million loss (£10 million after tax), and had to slash nearly 3,000 jobs, a third of its total workforce.

He instituted major economies and introduced products, including a new design for the company's barrel casing boiler feed pump, which independent tests have shown to be an



been focusing on the opportunities, and driving the companies — some of which had never before actively sold beyond British shores — out into export markets, which now account for 70 per cent of sales.

He has a reputation for causing trauma in the companies he acquires. That is not surprising. People do not like change. But it is firms that change with the times that succeed. Those that do not go under.

Indeed, the fallacy in *The Times* series is the assumption that there are no business failures in a successful economy.

The reverse is the case. Bankruptcy rates in Japan are orders of magnitude higher than in the United Kingdom. Only in the former command economies of Eastern Europe did nobody go out of business. A market economy requires constant re-allocation of resources — from the less to the more successful.

Sustaining — let alone improving — our national living standards and quality of life will not be possible unless Britain remains a major manufacturing nation. De-industrialization is simply not an option.

Good progress has been made in closing the gap with West Germany. Much — very much — remains still to be done, as the CBI has constantly emphasized. The key to the future lies in investment; in plant, machinery, products, innovation and particularly in people.

Here is another example: Tim Kelleher, chairman and chief executive of Verson International, specialist machinery makers, has turned half-a-dozen loss-making engineering companies into a profitable group and is well on the way to achieving his ambition to become the largest producer of his own type of specialist machinery in the world.

The key to his success has

James Capel tops Wall Street broker league

From John Durie, New York

James Capel is the top international stockbroker on Wall Street, according to a confidential report by Greenwich Associates.

The financial services consulting firm's survey also reports that London stockbrokers took market share last year from the big US houses.

The report, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times*, is the result of interviews with 108 institutional fund managers across the United States.

It was circulated among Greenwich Associates' clients last week.

The top five brokers in New York for British shares were: James Capel, BZW, Warburg Securities, Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs.

London brokers were also among the best performers for European equities, although in each case the country specialist dominated. In

French equity dealing from New York, Banque Paribas had a 47 per cent market share, followed by Warburg (36 per cent) and James Capel (21 per cent).

Total international equity sales from the United States showed James Capel pulling ahead of New York-based Morgan Stanley.

Both had a 64 per cent rating in 1989 but in the 1990 poll Capel scored 64 per cent against 55 per cent for Morgan Stanley.

The top five ranking for international research and executions in New York were: James Capel, Morgan Stanley, Baring Securities, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch.

BZW improved sharply from 40 to 49 per cent ratings. Smith New Court, Swiss-based UBS Securities and Nomura Securities followed closely behind.

Hoare Govett was one of

the few London firms to drop back, falling from a 50 per cent rating to a 42 per cent ranking, finishing in 15th place overall.

Senior staff from the firms involved declined to comment because they are Greenwich clients and signed a confidentiality agreement on receipt of the survey.

The slip in rating points by most of the top US houses can be explained by the slump in world equities markets which has led fund managers to revert to market specialists rather than all-purpose brokers.

More innovative sales techniques, like soft dollar deals where a broker supplies services like computer software free of charge in return for brokerage commissions, also came to the fore. James Capel topped the international brokers in New York using soft dollar deals after a rapid expansion of the technique.

Joining forces to create one of the world's leading health care

companies is already proving to be a formula for success. Since

the merger, business

momentum continues to

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profits for 1989 are higher

than last year, with

improved performances,

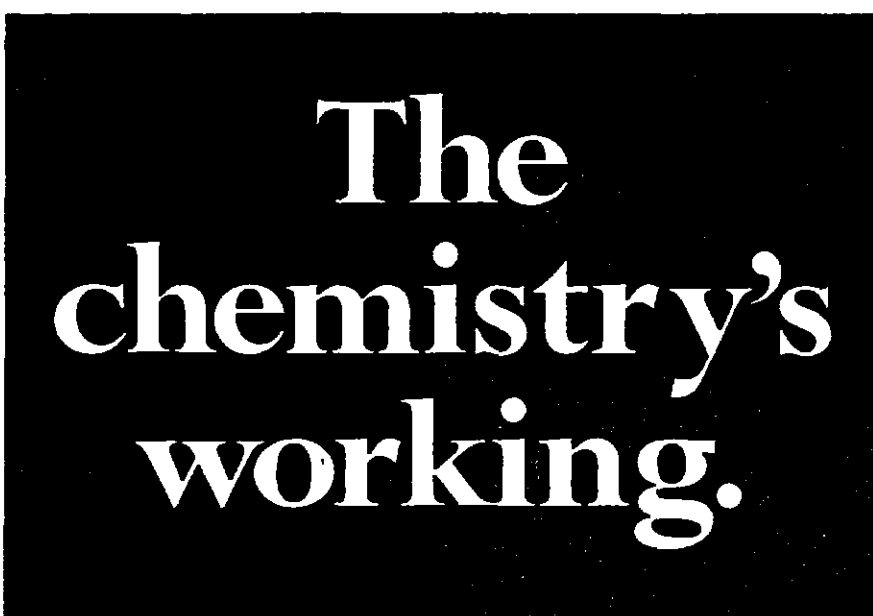
particularly by the Phar-

maceuticals and Animal

Health businesses which experienced double digit growth. Our

integration and restructuring plans are progressing on schedule.

As for the future, well, we've never felt better.



1989 (UNAUDITED) RESULTS

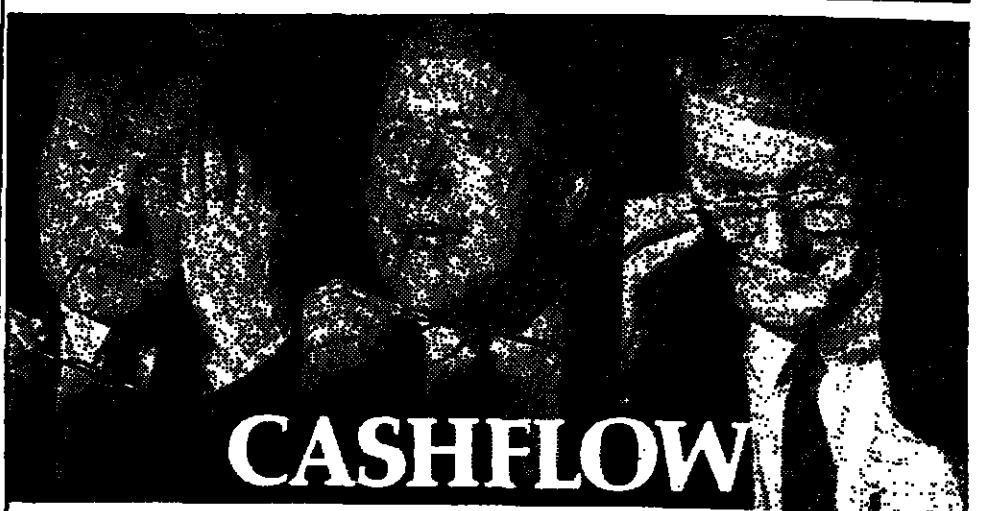
	£ Million	\$ Million (a)	% Growth
Sales	4897	7906	+14
Trading Profit	818	1320	+12
Interest (b)	(102)	(165)	—
Profit Before Taxation	724	1168	+3

(a) The US dollar \$1.6145 to £1 conversion appears solely for the convenience of US shareholders.
(b) Higher interest charge reflects changes in the capital structure following the merger.
Stock Exchange Listings/Symbols. London A Ordinary Shares: SB.A. Equity Units: SB.E.
New York A Ordinary Share ADRs: SBH. Equity Unit ADRs: SBE.

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 payment passed * Price at suspension * Dividend and
 yield exclude a special payment * Pre-merger figures in
 Forecast earnings * Ex other * Ex rights * Ex scrip or
 share split * Tax-free .. No significant data

The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 86.4 (day's range 85.2-86.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES OTHER STERLING RATES

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Export Credit Guarantee Department

هكذا من الامثلة

We spend about 50,000 hours of our lives dreaming. Now scientists are unravelling their meanings, reports Thomson Prentice

To sleep, perchance to dream

Since the earliest awakenings of mankind, the mysteries of sleep and the riddles of dreams have been among the most intriguing, but least understood, aspects of life.

Slowly, however, their secrets are beginning to be unravelled, offering fascinating insights into the workings of both mind and body. Researchers believe they are closer than ever before to important advances in charting the "lost" hours that make up a third of our existence.

Two months from now, about 500 international experts will gather in Strasbourg to pool their accumulated knowledge at the annual conference of the European Sleep Research Society.

Last week, Britain learnt a little more about the way we sleep and the dreams we dream. Dr Colin Shapiro, a senior lecturer in psychiatry at Edinburgh University, and head of the sleep laboratory at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, published the results of a nationwide study involving almost 1,500 people.

"Considering that we spend a third of our lives asleep, and that we dream for a total of 50,000 hours in an average lifetime, there are still huge unknowns confronting us," he says.

Much is being discovered, however, as Dr Shapiro's work has helped to confirm. While newborn babies sleep as much as 16 hours a day, adults tend to sleep less as they get older, slipping below the average of about eight hours a night.

Some evidence suggests that middle-aged women, especially those who have reared children, are more prone to disturbed sleep, and although the elderly appear to get by on less sleep, they tend to wake more often during the night.

Scientists are able to map the peaks and troughs of sleep, and trace the occurrence of dreams, with the use of the electroencephalogram (EEG), developed 50 years ago.

The EEG, which records patterns of electrical activity in the brain, and other monitoring equipment, are able to show the different types of sleep we experience. They can create a picture of what some researchers call the "sleep staircase" down which we descend every night.

The first step is a transitional stage between waking and sleeping, usually lasting a few minutes only, during which thoughts begin to drift and slow rolling-eye movements begin behind our eyelids. The second step is light sleep, which accounts for about half the total.

The third step leads into deep sleep, when the EEG waves become larger and slower, heart-rate and blood-pressure drop, as does body temperature, and breathing slows. By the fourth and bottom step, heart-rate and blood-pressure reach their lowest level.

During the course of the night, we move up and down the staircase, periodically pausing at an important level marked by what is known as REM - rapid eye movement. In this phase, which may occur four or five times, the

eyes flicker beneath closed lids, and the movements can be monitored by an electro-oculogram. Researchers have shown that REM sleep, and non-REM sleep, are fundamentally different. It is during REM sleep that we are more likely to dream.

While the body sleeps, the brain continues working, stimulated by an increased blood flow towards it. One of its functions, particularly in childhood and adolescence, is to secrete from the pituitary gland growth hormone, which is essential for physical development.

"Countless important tasks are being performed, many of which we just don't understand but which have physiological and psychological significance," Dr Shapiro says.

For thousands of years, the importance of our dreams has been debated by philosophers and scientists, and more recently by psychoanalysts. According to Plato: "There exists in every one of us, even in those reputed most respectable, a terrible, fierce and lawless brood of desires, which it seems are revealed in our sleep."

Sigmund Freud believed that dreams had both an obvious significance and a deeper, latent meaning. Nietzsche said: "Either we have no dreams, or our dreams are interesting." He went on to argue: "Nothing contains more of your own work than your dreams. Nothing belongs to you so much."

The molecular biologist Francis Crick and Graeme Mitchison described dreaming as a process of "unlearning" in which useless information is eliminated from the brain. "We dream in order to forget," they said.

Forgotten dreams tantalize us all, but how long do they last, and why can we so seldom recall them?

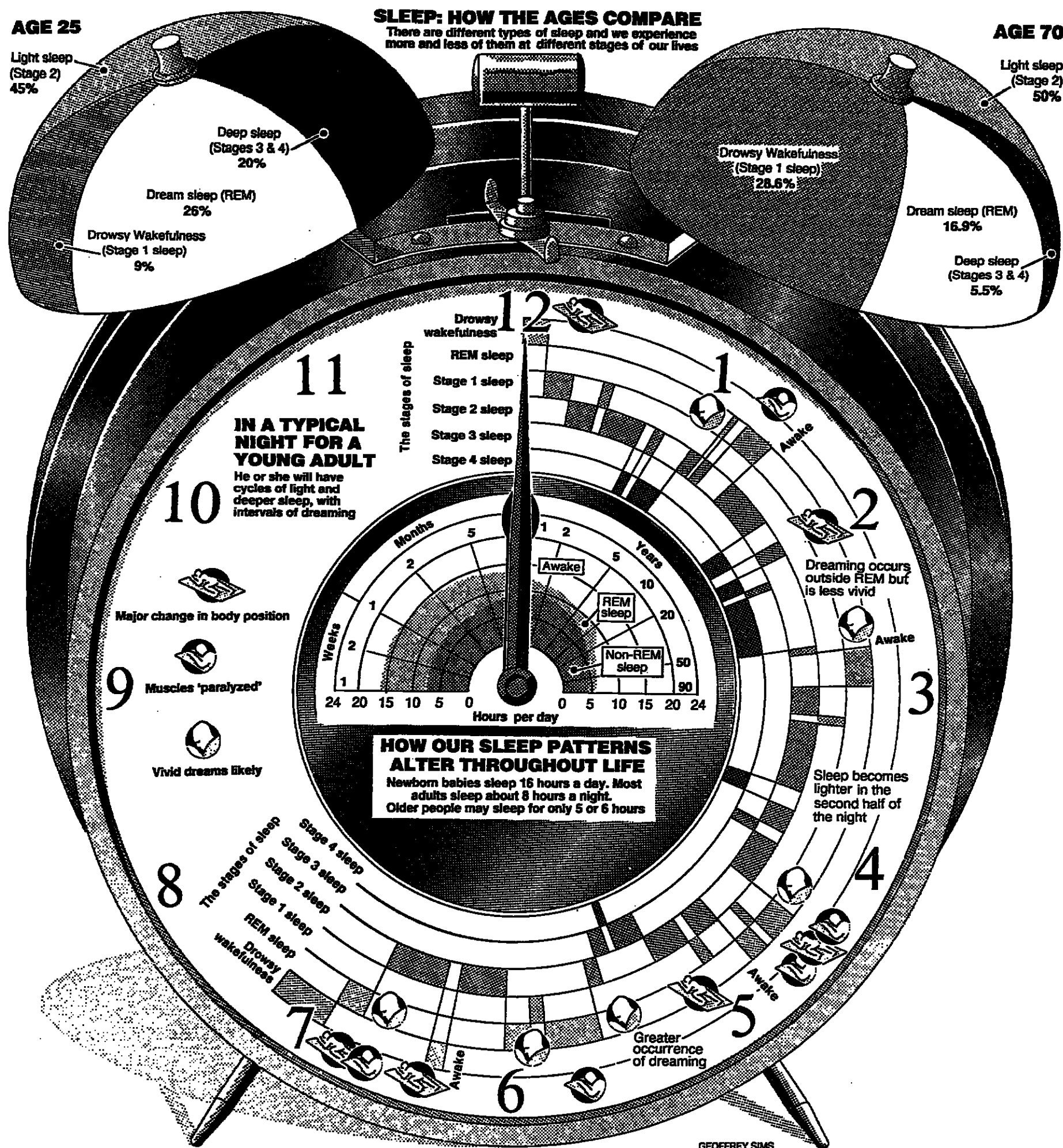
Dr Peter Hauri, a clinical psychologist and sleep researcher at Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, New Hampshire, believes we may have three or even six separate dreams a night, during REM sleep phases.

"The dreams that accompany these periods seem to be truly forgotten, not just repressed. Apparently, during REM sleep, consolidation of short-term memory is impaired," he says. "To remember a dream, we must awaken directly from REM sleep, and then consciously think about the dream." Thus, people who say they never dream usually have fewer awakenings from REM sleep, he believes.

Dr Shapiro thinks we dream for about a quarter of our sleep as adults, each dream lasting perhaps 10 or 15 minutes, and that we dream much more in infancy.

Dr Alexander Borbély, director of the sleep laboratory at the University of Zurich, says: "Generally speaking, the world of dreams vanishes on awakening, leaving a vague memory at most."

Most of our dreams, he feels, are dull and uninteresting, and it is only the most vivid or bizarre ones that linger in our memory. He also argues, from a review of recent research, that the content of our dreams is more likely to be



negative than positive. "Unhappiness, defeat and failure occur more often than contentment and success, and hostile and aggressive encounters are more frequent than friendly contact."

One American study showed that children dream of animals and of playing, as might be expected, but an interesting finding among those aged five and six was the difference between the dreams of boys and girls. While girls' dreams were more likely to be pleasant and to have "happy endings", the boys' dreams were unhappier and contained conflicts.

Dr Borbély says that contrary to common assumptions, most children's dreams are not disturbing or frightening, although the youngsters are likely to experience occasional nightmares that will wake them up.

He and Dr Shapiro share the view that adult nightmares are more likely to occur in the second half of the night, and are quite different from night terrors, which strike earlier in the night and in which the sleeper awakes, often sweating and breathing rapidly, and still frightened.

"We cannot tell the content of a person's dream from an EEG monitor," Dr Shapiro says. "The sensors tell us when a dream is taking place, but there is nothing on the graph to show whether it is a happy dream or a nightmare."

While about eight hours sleep seems to be the average, history has produced some notable exceptions. Napoleon slept only a few hours a night, observing that "only fools" needed more.

Sir Winston Churchill managed with between four and six hours and Mrs Thatcher is another who needs comparatively little sleep. Albert Einstein, on the other hand, spent 10 hours in bed.

The lack of sleep can produce nightmarish results in real life. Dr Shapiro's co-researcher, Emma Fossey, has produced a study of the consequences of late-night fatigue among shift workers.

The Challenger space shuttle disaster in 1986 happened soon after midnight; the explosion at Chernobyl in 1986 took place at about 1.30 am and the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station in 1979 happened just after 4 am.

"As we learn more about sleep we can help people to plan work schedules that are safer from accidents," Dr Shapiro says.

And the secrets of good sleep? Have plenty of physical exercise during the day, go to bed regularly at about the same time, have a comfortable bed in secure surroundings, avoid late-night alcohol, cigarettes and caffeine - and hope for pleasant dreams.



Sweet dreams: Dr Colin Shapiro, lecturer in psychiatry and head of the sleep laboratory at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, with a patient

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Record-breaking CDs

Four-hour compact discs, able to play operas and symphonies without interruption, coupled with a way to make the sound "warmer", are two of the changes planned to improve this increasingly popular product. More than 50 million players have already been sold world-wide and disc sales are running into billions every year.

As well as better sound quality, longer playing times and moving digital video pictures, some discs will allow users to mix sound, pictures and graphics in an infinite number of ways. Consumers will be able to use the discs to play sophisticated computer games, as an "electronic book" or to learn how to cook or to repair a car. Some CDs will be "recordable" so you can record your choice of music — and perhaps even pictures — on a disc.

A new generation of CD players — intended to improve sound quality — has just been announced, using a technique known as "high-speed bit processing". It was developed to answer complaints that digital sound is cold and clinical — a charge with which some companies secretly agreed. That is why top-end analogue turntables, which play vinyl records, still sell in good numbers.

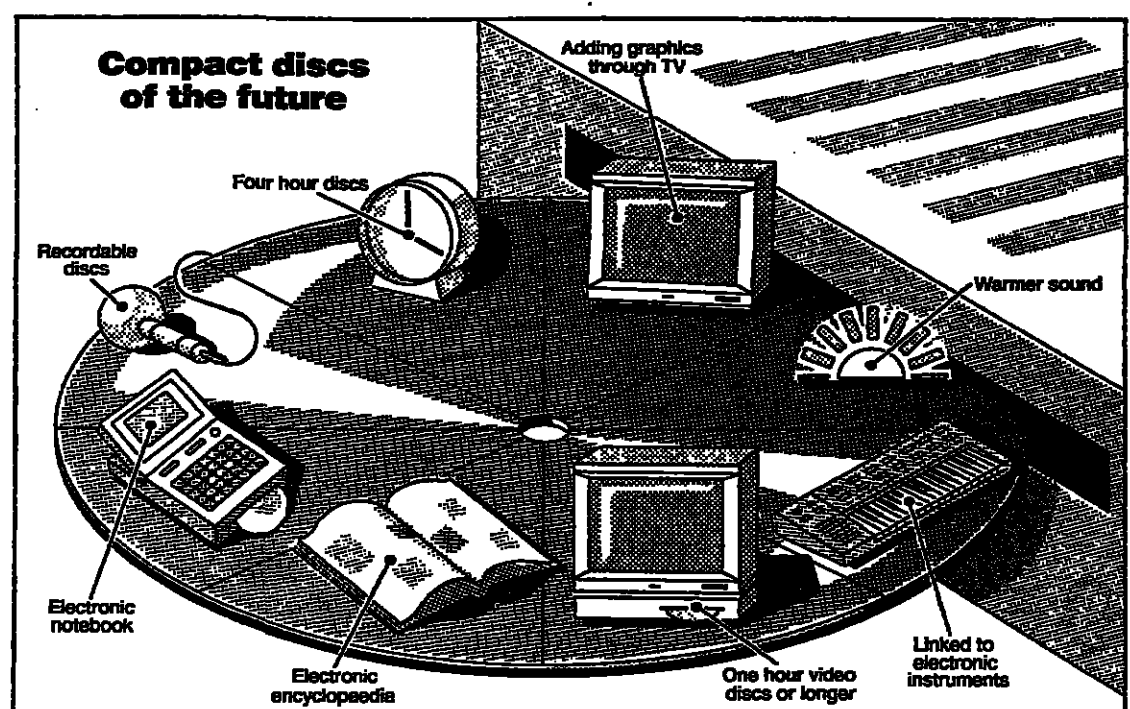
High-speed bit processing is claimed to make CDs sound "warmer" and more like LPs — but without the snap, crackle and pop that bedevils vinyl discs. The leaders in this field of technology are Philips, Sony and Matsushita — responsible for the Panasonic and Technics brands. All these systems use special microchips to process the digital signal at great speed. This gives a more accurate copy of the original sound signal.

"It means we can almost re-create the sound produced in a studio or concert hall," says Alan Ainslie, Philips marketing manager. "It also adds warmth to the sound."

In another development, Nimbus Records, a British company, is developing a system called CD-4X, which crams more information on a compact disc. CD-4X discs contain four times more information than normal CDs, and can store four hours of audio or an hour of digital video.

In Japan, America and West Germany, consumers are already buying compact discs which contain music, text and graphics. The system, known as CD+G (CD graphics) or background video, puts teletext-type pictures on a television screen and music through a hi-fi system. CD+G is really a new development of an old idea.

Compact disc manufacturers claim to have further improved their already successful products. George Cole tunes in to developments



A compact disc contains billions of tiny pits which represent bits of data. Most of the data is used for music, but when the format was developed by Philips and Sony, about 3 per cent of the bits were put aside for graphics. CD+G never really caught on until JVC of Japan went into partnership with Warner New Media to produce CD+G hardware and software.

A growing number of discs are being specially encoded with graphics. CD+G players contain a special decoder which separates the graphics and feeds them to a television set. The graphics contain pictures, lyrics and artists' biographies.

It is also possible to put MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) codes on a CD+G disc. MIDI is a music industry standard that allows several or more electronic instruments to be linked together and controlled by a single machine. CD+MIDI discs let users play along to the music on disc.

One advantage of CD+G is that it is fully compatible with normal CD players, which simply ignore the graphics. This means that shops do not have to hold a double inventory of discs. And because the graphics

are digital, discs can be played on any CD player throughout the world.

Many companies are rushing to develop CD-4X discs that will store moving video pictures. For the past 12 months, Philips and Pioneer have been promoting the compact disc video (CDV) format, which gives

'In the future, libraries will replace rows of books with small racks of compact discs'

six minutes of video with sound on a 5 inch disc.

But though CDV uses digital sound, the pictures are analogue. This is because converting video pictures into a digital code uses up a vast amount of data. Another snag is that the speed at which the data streams off a CD disc is too slow for normal moving video.

That is why CDV uses analogue video, but it means that the system falls foul of a split in television

standards. As a result, a CDV disc made for the American market, which uses the NTSC television system, will not play on a European machine that uses PAL.

The goal is to put at least an hour of digital video on disc, allowing discs to be used world-wide. So far, four video CD systems are in the running. All of them work by compressing the video data so that more information can be squeezed on to a disc. Video CD players use decompression chips to re-build the video picture.

Next year, Philips will launch the first domestic compact disc interactive (CD-I) players in Europe. CD-I discs are all-digital and contain a mix of text, data, sound, graphics and video. CD-I discs will come in many forms. For example, some will hold more than an hour of moving video with sound; others will store up to 16 languages on parallel tracks.

The discs are interactive because users control how the data is presented. "In the Nineties, all data is going to be shifted, expanded, compressed and juggled about, because that is a feature of digital technology," says Eric Kingdom,

Sony's technical information manager and another CD-I supporter.

CD-I players are really a CD deck and computer rolled into one box, but a buyer will not need to be a computer buff to use the system. The CD-I deck simply connects to a television set and hi-fi system, and is controlled by a series of on-screen menus which are selected with an infra-red handset. CD-I decks will also play normal CD discs.

CD-I discs will contain games, "electronic encyclopedias" and "how to" features. Discs will initially cost between £30 and £70.

Nimbus's joint managing director, Gerald Reynolds, thinks video compact discs could challenge the pre-recorded videotape market. He explains: "They will offer better quality and won't deteriorate like tape." TDK's technical manager, Martyn Williams, is not convinced. "Optical discs point to the future," he says, "but videotape will last for at least another 40 to 50 years."

Another type of disc, CD-ROM (read only memory) is already being used to store large amounts of data. One 5 inch disc can hold more than 250,000 pages of dense text. The discs can also be adapted to store audio and graphics.

In the future, libraries will replace rows of books with small racks of CD-ROM discs. Mr Kingdom says: "Students will read or learn from a disc by watching a flat TV screen or listening on headphones. Students will no longer have to lug bulky books about in a satchel."

Sony recently demonstrated a prototype Data Discman, a CD-ROM drive about the size of a paperback and weighing about 1 lb. The drive takes 3 inch CD-ROMs, which can store about 100,000 pages of text.

By far the most controversial development will be the recordable compact disc. Recordable CDs already exist, but are so far restricted to commercial clients, such as recording studios and radio stations. As with digital audio tape (DAT), the music industry fears recordable CDs because they could be used to make perfect copies of ordinary CD audio discs.

This year, electronics companies from Japan — which manufacture most of the CD hardware — and music companies from the West — which make most of the music software — are holding a series of meetings to try to resolve the matter. The likely outcome will be a tax or levy on CD recorders and blank discs.

Frogs reveal true colours

The idea that animals may be coloured to blend in with their background and hide from predators is a familiar one, not least through the efforts of natural-history filmmakers.

But new results published in the latest issue of *Functional Ecology* (vol. 4, pp. 47-51) show that to consider only these colours that fall within the human visual range may give a misleading picture of animal camouflage.

In the United States, Sharon Emerson and colleagues from the University of Utah studied the reflection of light from the bodies of tree frogs from nine species, over a range of wavelengths. The colour of any object depends on the wavelengths of the light rays it reflects: the light reflected from frogs tends to have a wavelength of about 550 nanometres. This is "green" to the human eye, so the frogs are invisible against a background of leaves.

But the researchers found that five of the species reflected even more light at longer wavelengths, invisible to humans. The other four species reflected this "near infra-red" light in similar quantities to the visible wavelengths.

In itself, this result is unremarkable: it shows only that humans cannot see some species of tree frog "in their true colours". But the frogs' near infra-red colouration may actually be important to camouflage.

When the researchers looked at the near infra-red colours of one of the frog species, *Agalychnis saltator*, and the leaves of a plant it inhabits in the wild, *Annona spraguei*, they found a very close match. The frog would be difficult to distinguish for any predator with near infra-red vision.

Although near infra-red vision has not been studied in many frog predators, it seems that tree frogs have evolved two different strategies to avoid becoming lunch. All are reasonably well-camouflaged to predators that can see a shorter range of colours than ourselves. But whereas some tree frogs have to rely on fast reflexes to avoid predators with near infra-red vision, others have extended their camouflage into these wavelengths, and can afford a more sedentary lifestyle.

Dana Krenpsel, a graduate student at the University of Miami, has shown that birds of prey feeding on amphibians are able to see at these wavelengths.

The behaviour of the frogs also suggested that the species with near infra-red colours rely more on camouflage rather than hopping away to protect themselves from predators.

They spend most of their time motionless on leaf surfaces, and the five near infra-red frogs are extremely difficult to detect. Even if approached closely, they just stay still, pretending to be a leaf. The other species, in common with most frogs and toads, make a quick getaway if predators come too close.

As it happens, infra-red colouration provides a natural protection against overheating in the sun — nearly half the energy in sunlight is radiated in the near infra-red. But the researchers show that this advantage is incidental in the environments the frogs inhabit: camouflage is much more important.

Emerson and colleagues believe that the infra-red colouration is an example of "convergent evolution", in which distantly related species evolve similar solutions to the same evolutionary problem — in this case the need to avoid predators.

It seems that tree frogs have evolved two different strategies to avoid becoming lunch. All are reasonably well-camouflaged to predators that can see a shorter range of colours than ourselves.

But whereas some tree frogs have to rely on fast reflexes to avoid predators with near infra-red vision, others have extended their camouflage into these wavelengths, and can afford a more sedentary lifestyle.

Peter Aldhous

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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FOR MORE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY APPOINTMENTS SEE PAGE 38

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A major step towards the first use of gene therapy has been taken in the United States. The American National Institutes of Health has approved a proposal for treating children with a very rare disease by inserting new genes into their blood cells to replace defective genes.

The disorder, adenosine deaminase deficiency, is more widely known as the "bubble baby" condition because the children have to live in a sterile plastic enclosure to protect them from infection.

The immune system of children with this defect fails to produce the protective substances that should defend them against even the simplest of organisms that can cause infections.

The proposal by Dr D. W. French and colleagues from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute needs additional approval from other regulatory panels in the US before the clinical trials begin later this year.

The treatment involves removing from the patient the type of blood cells known as T-cells, the ones normally responsible for fending off infectious bacteria, viruses and other organisms. The T-cells would be grown in large quantities in the laboratory and modified by inserting healthy donated human genetic material into the defective cells.

The genetically engineered cells would then be transfused into the patient's blood stream, where they would be ready to stimulate the production of the enzymes that are missing in "bubble babies".

In principle, the gene replacement procedure should allow doctors to insert a variety of donated genetic

Giving hope to 'bubble babies'

Scientists in the United States are to treat children with a rare disease by replacing their defective genes, Pearce Wright reports

material selected to treat diseases known to have a genetic basis.

The illnesses need not necessarily be restricted to the well-known inherited and disabling illnesses like cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and Huntington's disease.

A review of the latest medical research published today in *Human Genetic Information: Science, Law and Ethics*, suggests that genes play a significant role, together with environmental factors, in many of the common diseases: heart disease, arthritis, asthma, various forms of cancer and diabetes and a number of psychiatric disorders.

In future it should be possible to treat people by genetic engineering to avoid the more common diseases to which they might be constitutionally predisposed.

Yet the ability to conduct gene therapy depends on isolating the defective gene from the complete set of 50,000 genes contained in almost every cell in the body.

Detection of the faulty gene is needed for a precise diagnosis of the illness and for pinpointing the



Professor Bernard Williams, whereabouts of the replacement donor gene that has to be extracted from healthy tissue, or perhaps synthesized in the laboratory.

In practice, the errant gene has been found for only a handful of the 3,000 clear inherited disorders that are believed to be caused by a single

gene defect. The idea of extending gene therapy poses greater difficulties because scientists suspect that a large number of genes may be implicated in most of the diseases.

But experts who contributed to the *Human Genetic Information* report, which is based on a symposium organized by the Ciba Foundation, believe that the latest research is opening procedures for a degree of genetic intervention that has been regarded until recently as in the realm of science fiction.

The key which promises to unlock a bewildering future is the start of the Human Genome project, the multi-million pound 20-year international venture to pinpoint the whereabouts of each gene and to sequence each one.

Outlining the need to examine the science, law and ethics of genetics, Sir Gustav Nossal, the eminent immunologist and director of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia, says the second half of the 20th-century belongs to biology.

He believes the perception of the medical scientist as a healer and heroic figure that began with antibiotics and other wonder drugs and other therapies, has changed.

In his view, advances in molecular biology and genetic technology that began with Francis Crick and James Watson deciphering how the genetic code must be arranged within the double helix of DNA in every cell, has raised a mistrust in the public's mind.

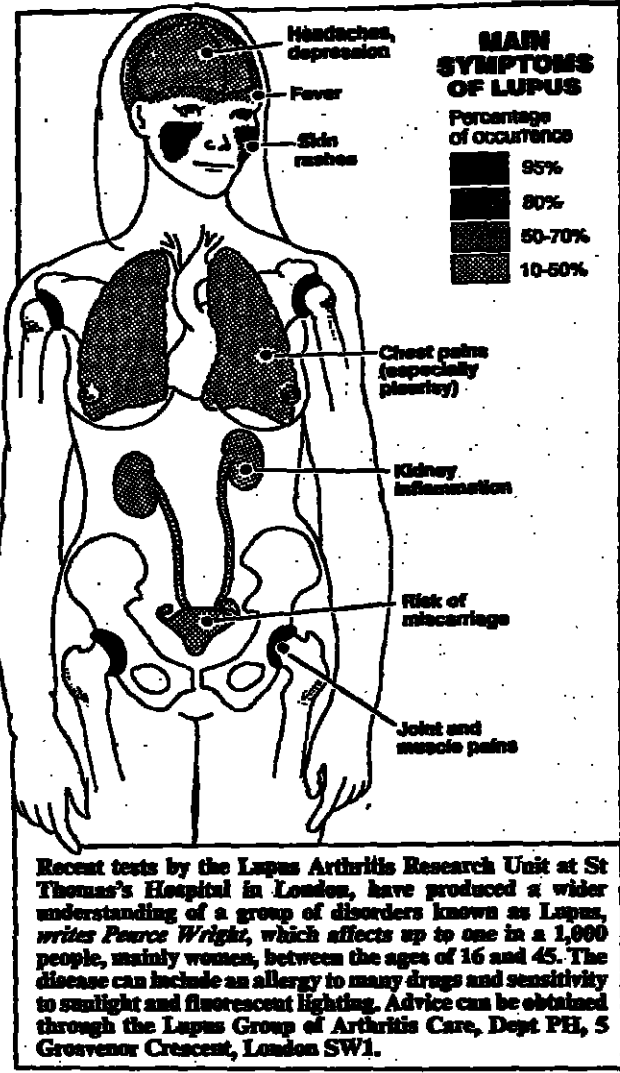
Against that background the Ciba Foundation invited an international group of lawyers, philosophers and theologians to join scientists in discussing the social and ethical issues of genetic technology.

In addition to specialists in the front line of medical research, it included Professor Bernard Williams, the philosopher who joined the academic brain drain from Cambridge to California, who asked: "Who might I have been?"

Professor Max Charlesworth, of the School of Humanities, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia, suggested that human genome analysis will profoundly affect our concept of what it is to be human.

He maintains that genetic engineering "raises formidable ethical, social and legal problems and we need to develop criteria to decide which kinds of genetic manipulation will enhance life and which will not."

Mrs Diana Braham, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, London, says "legal debates are likely to focus on ownership of human genetic information, the patenting techniques to unravel it and the therapies and medicines developed therefrom."



Clean-up by robots



A robot vacuum cleaner has been developed to work in office buildings and industrial areas. Its inventor is a 26-year-old electronic engineering student in Canada. The machine is simply switched on and emits ultrasonic waves to calculate, among other factors, the distance between it and other objects. Vivek Burhanpurkar, the student, says his company, Cybervac, has a tentative order for 300 robots from an Amsterdam-based contract cleaning company, Hoden, which is testing the robot. The company, along with the National Research Council of Canada, put up \$2 million to finance the robot development. However, home applications are ruled out both by the robot's price and its size. It costs \$6,000 and is 3 ft high, 2 ft long and 2 ft wide.

A big Apple

Apple Computer is expected to announce on Monday a new and expensive version of the Macintosh computer. It will be twice as fast as the current top model and cost more than \$6,000. However, some analysts think Apple would do better by producing a very cheap version of the Macintosh to compete with the host of inexpensive IBM-type personal computers available. The company has recently introduced cost-cutting measures, including laying off 400 people in America. Two of its top executives have resigned in the past month.

Heart and mind



A drug developed for heart patients could be used as a treatment for senility, according to research at the North Western University Medical School, in Chicago. Professor John Disterhoft and his colleagues at the school are ready to start testing the effects of nimodipine, a calcium antagonist, on elderly patients. Experiments on rabbits have shown that the drug caused aged animals to learn new behaviour as fast, or even faster, than younger ones. Professor Disterhoft told the International Forum for the Evaluation of Cardiovascular Care at its meeting in Lisbon last week. The hope is that it may also boost the decaying learning ability of elderly people with symptoms of senility. However, the drug would not cure Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of senile dementia, but could help offset the worst symptoms of the disease, he said.

Sky high idea

Japan is considering building more than 3,000 heliports during the next 30 years in an attempt to eliminate traffic congestion. A plan has been developed by the Japan Heliporter Network, which is backed by 49 companies and

Abortion study

A pharmaceutical company's study of the controversial French abortion pill, claims it is safe and effective. The study of more than 2,000 women in France who took the drug, RU486, showed a 96 per cent success rate, without causing side effects any more frequently than with conventional abortions. The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was conducted by the French pharmaceutical company, Roussel Uclaf, which developed the drug but sells it only in France. This is, in part, because of fierce opposition from anti-abortion groups. The drug works by blocking the hormone progesterone, causing a fertilized egg to be expelled.

A safer time

The symbolic 11:12 Doomsday Clock, which represents how close the world is to atomic destruction, has been moved back four minutes to stand at 10 minutes to midnight. This reflects the reduced tension between the superpowers. The clock first appeared on the cover of the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* in June 1947 as a symbol of impending apocalypse. The clock was last moved in 1988 when it shifted back from three minutes to the hour, to six minutes to the hour. In 1953 it had stood at two minutes to midnight after the United States successfully tested the hydrogen bomb.

What a gas

French doctors are manufacturing ozone and injecting it into their patients. Though not recognized as a medical treatment by the French medical establishment, about 300 doctors are said to be using the method, claiming that the gas can relieve stress, combat fatigue and stimulate the circulation. "It's like cocaine only much milder; it makes you feel tremendously energetic, happy and warm," said cosmetic surgeon Paul Musarella. He said there was no danger as long as it was administered correctly. Professor Pierre Cornillot, President of the Paris Nord University, said the gas was also a strong antiseptic and was used to treat soldiers' wounds in the First World War. But Professor Cornillot was wary of its use for internal treatment. A single dose of ozone costs between £20 and £40 and sessions can range from twice a week to once a month.

Matthew May

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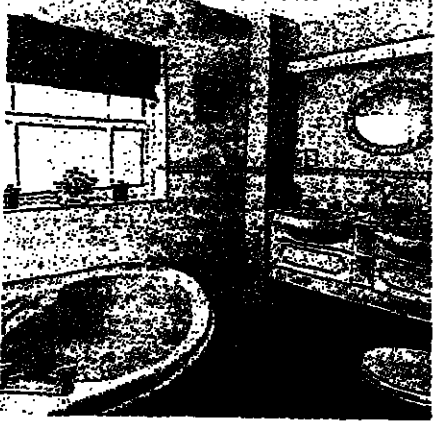
at No. 1, with dark wood panelling and attractive leaded light inserts and side panelling — perfectly in keeping with the 'Victorian' design of the house itself.

The front door of neighbouring No. 5, on the other hand, belongs to a different style of house — a more modern design whose 'personality' is better suited to its impressive porch and white wood panelling.

Predictably, the doors of numbers 5 and 7 each have their own story to tell.

Step inside and you'll see the same attention to detail reflected throughout the house.

Many of our larger designs feature bathrooms with fitted units for a streamlined finish, which neatly hide the plumbing and provide extra storage space. The modern bathroom suites are available in a number of styles and colours and co-ordinate with quality tiling.



We found an opening for numbers 3, 5 and 7.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thomson Prentice on a remarkable operation in which a dog was fitted with contact lenses and its sight saved

Nice to see you again, vet

A dog called Cindy was very pleased to see her owner again this week and her owner was even more pleased to see her. A few days earlier the nine-year-old crossbreed had been almost completely blind after developing cataracts in both eyes.

However, in a remarkable operation performed by veterinary surgeons in Edinburgh, her sight has been restored with the aid of plastic lenses implanted into her eyes.

The work by veterinary ophthalmologist Simon Petersen-Jones and colleagues at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Edinburgh University is a great advance on existing techniques.

The Edinburgh unit is the first in Britain to introduce the operation, which offers a greatly improved quality of life for the animal and uses 7mm lenses, held in place by two fine spring-loaded arms inserted

in a procedure which takes about two hours.

Cataracts are a common cause of blindness in dogs and although they can be surgically removed the animal's vision remains seriously out of focus.

"People suffering from the same condition can be given lens implants after a cataract operation and their sight is returned to normal," Mr Petersen-Jones says. "The same technique has not been applied to dogs until now because it requires skills in micro-surgery and expensive equipment which most British vets do not possess."

He studied the work of eye surgeons at an Edinburgh hospital where the operation is carried out regularly on human patients and visited a West German veterinary centre to learn the micro-surgical procedure.

Only a day after the operation, the

dog patients are able to see again and within a couple of days are able to return home.

"The improvement is rapid and impressive. We can carry out a series of tests such as putting the animal through an obstacle course to observe the benefits," Mr Petersen-Jones says.

The operation, however, may not be possible for all dogs with cataracts because many have some other untreatable disease within the eye. The cost too — about £200 — will often put it beyond the reach of some owners, but could be a worthwhile investment if the animal is a working sheepdog or gun dog.

Cindy is simply a family pet, but her owner, Mrs Catherine Stawley of Edinburgh, says: "I thought there was very little that could be done for her. It's wonderful to have her recognize me again."



Vet Simon Petersen-Jones examines Cindy's eyes after fitting the lenses

Deadly zebras of the deep

North America's Great Lakes are under ecological attack from a tiny but tenacious British mollusc. The zebra mussel, or *Dreissena polymorpha*, is attacking some native species, snatching breeding and feeding grounds off others and threatening prized fish stocks.

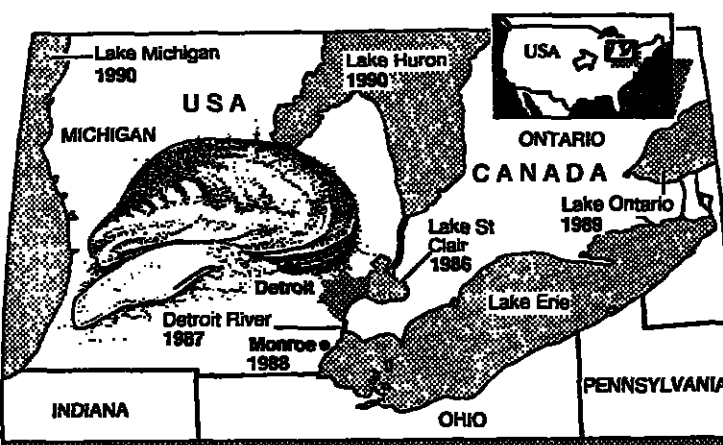
In four short years the invader, common in the canals and streams of the Midlands and southern England, has sparked a national emergency after rampaging through thousands of miles of Lake Erie into Lake Ontario.

Last week, United States senators called for a multi-million dollar, government-backed programme to head off the estimated \$3 billion worth of damage expected if the mussel is left unchecked.

There is also increasing concern in Britain over the uncontrolled introduction of another species of foreign shellfish into estuaries. The manila clam is being promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture as a promising cash crop for the exotic seafood industry, but naturalists argue it is alien to British waters and threatens wildlife in areas like the River Exe.

Under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, the introduction of alien species into the British environment is illegal. But manila clams are being exempted from

A British mollusc is rampaging through the lakes of North America and threatening prized fish stocks and drinking water supplies, reports Nick Nuttall



these rules on the grounds that the clams are caged.

Michel Hughes, conservation officer with Devon Wildlife Trust, says this argument is "nonsense", as conservationists have found that the shellfish's sex cells are being released into waterways during the spawning season.

Despite Ministry assurances that the clams are incapable of breeding into colonies in Britain's cooler waters, new evidence has now emerged to the contrary, he says. "We know that the creatures can reproduce at a temperature of 14 degrees centigrade and that in 1989 the surface water temperatures in

southern Britain exceeded 20 degrees in the south west."

Mr Hughes is calling on local authorities to exercise laws under the Town and Country Planning Act which, he claims, would make the manila cages illegal.

Certainly the United States is taking the mussel threat extremely seriously. Apart from senators' calls for eradication funding and tough new laws governing the introduction of new species, worried water supply and power generation companies have launched their own studies to try and identify ways of coping with the marine menace.

The mollusc has been infesting drinking water supplies and water cooling pipes, forcing some stations to shut down for several days and others to reduce electricity output.

"It is believed that by the turn of the century every freshwater lake in most of North America will be infected up into southern Canada and down into the middle and southern United States," says Jo Szewjowski, a senior biologist at Centor Energy Corporation in Ohio.

Zebra mussels are common throughout eastern, western and northern Europe. Why they have reached plague proportions in the

United States is unknown. A London Zoo spokesman said it could be because of a variety of factors, including water conditions, a lack of natural pests or a balance of predators.

The animals, measuring around one and-a-half inches long and coloured pale olive to a shade of yellow, have distinctive zig-zag lines across the shells. American biologists believe the creatures got into the Great Lakes area in 1986. It is thought that several were stow-aways on an unidentified freighter which, after sailing from somewhere in Europe, dumped water ballast into a southern part of Lake St Clair.

Mr Szewjowski said the tenacious mollusc seemed immune to the cold winters of the region. The zebra were first noticed colonizing and suffocating native clams. Crayfish, which initially feed on the zebra, are in turn killed by the molluscs, which attach themselves with their sturdy beards.

"Outside the power station plants there is not much we can do. We will have to learn to live with it," said Mr Szewjowski. "All we can hope is that the population of some natural predator begins to increase. Anybody who believes eradication will work is in for a rude awakening."

Opening doors on software

Computer staff will no longer have to specialize in a particular system

The search for universal "open" computer systems is fast changing the information technology jobs market.

All the leading computer manufacturers are releasing some systems with common software and programming based on the open operating system Unix, which is aimed at making it easier for different brands of machines to communicate and use the same software.

IBM is the latest supplier to announce a range of Unix systems with the launch of a recent series of work stations and follows similar releases by competitors, such as Digital Equipment and ICL.

A recent survey published by the trade paper *Computer Weekly* showed that demand for personnel with experience in using Unix was the second most advertised job in the last 12 months and marks a shift in companies' staff requirements.

This demand is in turn pushing up salaries until they begin to rival those paid to IBM mainframe staff, traditionally the most lucrative skill in the trade.

"The salaries for Unix skills are slightly better than average. I would now expect a Unix expert to earn as much, if not more, than say someone with IBM/Cobol programming experience," says Russell Clements, of the Computer Futures recruitment agency (01-499 3886) which specializes in the Unix market.

The changes are being led by business moves towards systems conforming to open standards. Figures published by the Dataquest research organization show that the market for Unix systems on the Continent was worth £2.8 billion in 1988 and just under \$1 billion in the UK.

The Unix market is estimated to account for about a tenth of total information technology expenditure and is predicted to double by 1992.

Other surveys show that most companies are including

Unix systems in their buying plans and the leading manufacturers predict that the market for Unix systems is more than double that for their proprietary technologies.

The advantage to businesses is that software written for the Unix operating system can run on numerous systems and means that companies do not have to retrain staff each time they upgrade.

Previously, all the manufacturers would release an unknown and proprietary operating system with each new range, leading to a shortage of staff with these skills for a considerable period.

These moves are leading many in the industry to scramble for Unix experience. One software house found that staff attending a recruitment fair were desperately looking for companies prepared to retrain them in Unix.

Private training companies are also increasing the number of Unix courses to cope with the increased demand. Computer Training (01-637 1234) is focusing on this area and has launched over 18 Unix courses.

Self-employed contractors are also seeking to make the move, according to the Fernhart Select recruitment agency (01-658 7833) which specializes in Unix and the KCL market.

A large number of contractors are taking up training in Unix," George Coggins, the managing director, says.

Companies need to make the best use of scarce human resources and many see that Unix offers them an effective method of utilizing existing staff for their computing requirements, regardless of which system they install in the future.

This is becoming even more important as the demographic downturn looms when IT staff will become an even greater shortage than in the Eighties.

Leslie Tilley



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Battling the loneliness of life at the top

Isolation and endless change together make the life of the chief executive a difficult one. Sally Watts discovers help at hand from several organizations

The chief executive is not only responsible for the day-to-day management of his organization, he or she must also plan for the next 10, 20 or more years, deciding how best to move into Europe, the global market and the next century. Challenges like these call for considerable knowledge and vision.

To foster these qualities, academic and business organizations are mounting courses, clubs and workshops, usually emphasizing strategic management, for people at the top, especially chief executives.

Organizers of these events point to the loneliness of the chief executive's role, a view shared by Tony Gill, chairman and chief executive of Lucas Industries. "Being a chief executive is lonely and it's useful to have others to talk to. I make a deliberate attempt to keep in touch by attending conferences on subjects such as the effects of the single market."

Mr Gill also goes to events organized by INSEAD, the international business school, and to programmes in strategic leadership arranged for key staff by his company and INSEAD.

"At Lucas, our training programmes are for everyone, including the chief executive," he says. "You need to keep up-to-date with

the changes around. If you are trying to change the culture of an organization, as we were, it is helpful to subject yourself to the training, and be seen to do so."

For those in line for the top job, the British Institute of Management runs seminars which allow participants to think through the chief executive's role, compare other organizations and management styles with their own, and gain insights into the direction their organization is taking in the face of constant change.

The Leaders' Seminar, with its theme of "Leading to the Millennium", is held three times a year at a country hotel and is always fully booked. Each seminar lasts from Sunday evening to Friday lunch-time and is attended by, at most, 25 senior managers nominated by their own organizations. These come from a wide range of areas, including government departments, manufacturing, banks and the City.

Tutoring is handled by chief executives, including earlier participants, and leading academics. They discuss subjects ranging from company development, corporate assets in the Nineties, the future of the "new Europe" to international competitive strategy.

As well as group discussions, there is the chance to learn about

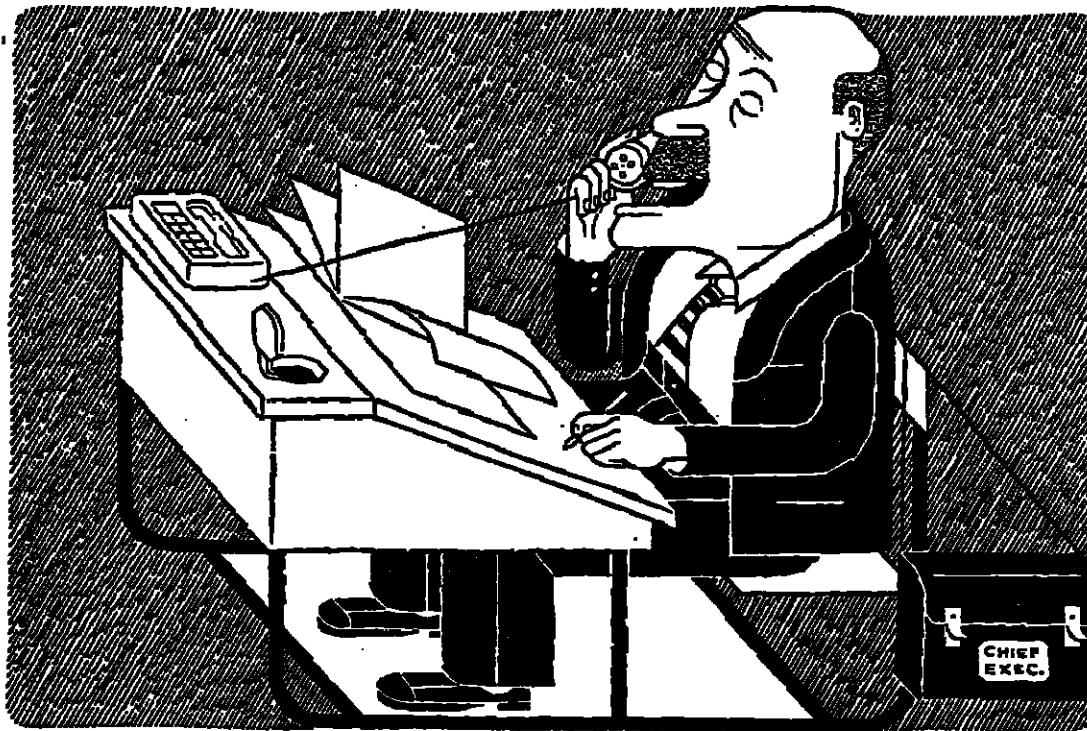


Dr Graham Milborrow, of the British Institute of Management: "The tutors are glad to act as guides and mentors. They give generously of their time"

the speakers' own executive styles, how they handle their responsibilities and where they feel they may have made mistakes.

"They are glad to be guides and mentors, and they give generously of their time," says Dr Graham Milborrow, BIM's director of professional development services, who designs the seminars.

"There are dramatic changes taking place today and a stretching process is continually taking place." But the role is unique which makes it difficult to obtain practical learning. The BIM offers the chance to learn the best



"Someone who attended our last course told us it was the only time he had been able to open up. Being a chief executive is lonely..."

senior management, holds monthly, day-long conferences in London. Past speakers have included Peter Sutherland, chairman of Allied Irish Bank, and the author Dr Edward de Bono. The cost is £5,000 a year, or £7,000 for joint membership, and the club is run by Ambrosotti, providers of senior management education.

Jean Lammiman, Ambrosotti's chief executive, will introduce two new ventures soon. In May, a Europe-based network will look at examples of good business practice for top managers moving into or planning links with Europe, and in June, a series of 24-hour intensive workshops will be held in conjunction with Cranfield. These will examine key aspects of the chief executive's role such as how to lead through marketing, or managing change.

"We find there's a demand among chief executives to be trained and to have time to learn," she says. "What chief executives want most of all is to step outside

resources. When necessary, an individual tutoring session with an expert is arranged.

A maximum of 12 people takes part, with no two members from competing companies unless both agree. The workshop lasts three days with a follow-up meeting held later. Here, participants report back on progress in an area of their own choice - problems of restructuring, perhaps, or the market positioning of their firm. "They talk to each other and

approaches from good chief executives.

"The seminars help participants come to grips with their own style. They also bring a case study of their difficulties and discuss how they have dealt with recent problems."

"Managing Strategic Change" is a workshop held each March and October by the Cranfield School of Management. It is designed to meet the needs of present and likely chief executives by building a programme around issues identified by the participants. The programme uses a number of

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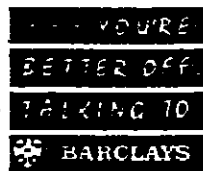
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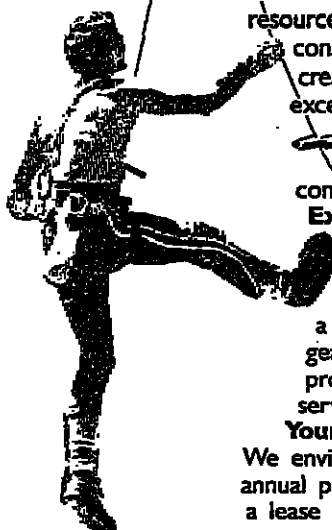
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For further information, please contact John Brown on Bradford (0274) 752022 (24 hour answerphone) or write to him at:

Strategic Personnel, City of Bradford Metropolitan Council, 6th Floor, Metrochange House, 61 Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 5SG. Closing date for receipt of applications: 2nd April, 1990. Ref: SPI/T

COMPANY SECRETARY

for the Building & Civil Engineering Division of a major PLC

Opportunity to join the Trafalgar House Group as manager of the secretarial department of its Building and Civil Engineering Division, based at Mitcham, Surrey.

Reporting to the Divisional Legal Adviser, you will be responsible for a department providing company secretarial services to operating companies and their management. This will include board meetings, statutory compliance work, management of statutory accounts and liaison with auditors, monitoring trade marks, and advising management on company structures,

reorganisations, and liquidations. You will liaise regularly with Division and Group taxation, finance, legal, and personnel departments.

Candidates should be Chartered Secretaries and preferably aged between 40 and 55 years. You will have had a wide range of company secretarial experience, preferably in industry.

Salary will be negotiable, depending on experience, and benefits will include a company car and private medical insurance. For further details, please ring Fiona Boxall, or send her a copy of your c.v.

Chambers

Recruitment

74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET
Tel: 8951182 (01) 606 8844 Fax (01) 600 1793

Consultants

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES IN FINANCIAL POLICY AND CONTROL

The Building Societies Commission is responsible for the supervision of building societies to protect investors. It also administers the legislative framework which governs societies' constitution and business.

As the Commission's main point of contact with building societies, you will be responsible for supervising the activities of a group of societies of varying size and complexity. You will monitor current activities, consider the implications of existing and proposed policies, and review the adequacy of business control systems. You will also have responsibility for specific issues and policy areas, which can involve initiating and developing prudential policy for the industry as a whole.

You must be able to demonstrate a good practical understanding of one or more of the following: accountancy, economics, financial institutions and markets, or financial regulation. You will be required to represent the Commission with societies at all levels and need to have the ability, personality and presence to quickly gain the confidence of directors and management.

SUPERVISORS

FOR THE BUILDING SOCIETIES COMMISSION

Period appointments up to 5 years or permanent posts are available.

Starting salary will be in the range £22,845 - £29,220 with further increments, depending on performance, up to £31,750. A salary above the maximum may be awarded to exceptional candidates.

Relocation expenses of up to £5000 may be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 27 March 1990) write to the Building Societies Commission, 15 Great Marlborough Street, London W1A 2AX or telephone 01-494 6623. Please quote reference G/8342.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer



OPPORTUNITIES IN INFORMATION

SCARBOROUGH HEALTH AUTHORITY offers the following challenging opportunities as part of a major revision and development of its Information Systems. Both posts will be based in Scarborough which is located on the Yorkshire Coast with reasonably priced housing and easy access to the North Yorkshire Moors and Dales.

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

Pay spine 12: £25,440 + PRP + relocation expenses

This newly created Chief Officer post accountable to the District General Manager will lead the further development and implementation of the Authority's Information Strategy following an extensive review undertaken by management consultants. It reflects the high priority afforded by Scarborough to the development of good quality information to support the management process.

The successful applicant must be a good communicator with proven experience in information services. In addition he/she will be able to gain the confidence of information users at all levels of the organisation.

Interested applicants are invited to contact Colin Coates, District General Manager or Martin Hay, District Planning Manager, Scarborough Hospital, tel: (0723) 368111, ext. 2362 or 2291 respectively.

PROJECT MANAGER (RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)

Pay spine 18: £20,110 + PRP + relocation expenses

Scarborough Hospital has recently been selected to commence work on the introduction of the Resource Management Initiative and requires the service of a Project Manager to take this development forward. He/she will be managerially accountable to the Director of Information but needs to work closely with colleagues in a wide variety of disciplines at both Unit and District level.

Further information from Martin Hay on the above telephone number.

Information pack available from Personnel Department, Scarborough Hospital, Scalby Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 6QL. Tel: (0723) 368111, ext. 2196 to whom applications in the form of a c.v. should be returned by 30th March, 1990.

SCARBOROUGH
Health Authority

TRAINING IN MILAN

Last year our Milan school helped Italian executives from 120 major companies to improve their communication skills in English. We are looking for new trainers to join us on a permanent, full-time basis with a view to expanding our business over the next few years. Candidates should be graduates aged between 25 and 35, with enough commercial and professional experience to understand the real needs of our participants and enough training aptitude to give them the tools they need to work better in English.

Starting salary (under review) is about £16,000 rising to £17,000 after six months, with 10 weeks holiday. If you are interested, please send a C.V. to:

James Halford,
The Canning School,
4, Abingdon Road,
LONDON W8 6AF
England.

PAYROLL/BENEFITS MANAGER CENTRE-FILE/PERSONNEL PARTNER

£20,000 + CAR

An experienced all-round payroll manager is sought by Berkshire company to oversee benefits, payroll, and payroll systems functions. Experience of using Personnel Partner Systems preferred. Ideal opportunity for an ambitious and dynamic personality.

Call T&T Payroll
01-628 6081
(Rec Cons)

Travel Consultant (untrained)

required for

Australia's largest retailer of travel now operating in London. Applicants must be over 22, have travelled extensively, have at least 2 "A" levels and preferably have a degree in Arts or Science. A generous commission only salary is paid during the first 3 months whilst training.

Apply in writing with "A" level results to:
Kelly, London Bridge Flight Centre,
Shop 8, London Bridge Walk,
London SE1 8JZ.

Unsuccessful Applicants are not notified.

**A
Senior
Position
with a
World
Leader**

COMPANY SECRETARY c. £25,000pa

Reporting to the General Manager and directly accountable to the Board of Directors, the appointment holds full responsibility for all legal matters including contracts, leases and any material changes in the Articles and Bye-Laws of the Association. You will also be responsible for premises and office services and act as Assistant Secretary to the Board of Interflora Incorporated.

Aged 25-35 you should be graduate calibre and hold a professional qualification, preferably AICS. A working knowledge of committee procedures and a willingness to undertake some overseas travel are also essential.

We are offering a highly attractive package including negotiable relocation expenses reflecting the importance of the position to our future growth.

Please write enclosing your CV to Victoria Clay at the address below:

Interflora (FIDA) British Unit Ltd, Interflora House,
Watlington, Oxford, OX4 7TB

Interflora
Where careers flourish

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

We are a busy West End Computer Recruitment Consultancy with considerable business building up in Europe. We have vacancies for individuals with outgoing personalities and the desire for success in a sales environment. Initially, you will be dealing with UK business and then help support our European expansion. A knowledge of computers and sales, including a foreign language an advantage although not essential. Full training will be given. A high commission and basic is offered, together with BUPA and a company car after a qualifying period.

Please contact Warren Ledger at
ICON on 01-409-2844.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

C £33,000
Inc good basic salary,
company car after
qualifying period + BUPA and
expenses.

Alexander Mann Associates, UK's No.1 recruitment specialists and expert, professional sales executives, minimum age 25 with proven track record in Capital Goods/Finance/Leasing/Telecommunications.

Three current positions are available due to expansion at market specification. Excellent training with good management opportunities.

URGENT TELEPHONE
ROSEMARY MARSHALL
01 872 0000

ALEXANDER MANN ASSOCIATES PLC

RESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATORS

Franchise, a privately owned company, has continuously raised its profile in Central London and as a direct result now wishes to appoint two additional senior negotiators to handle increased levels of sales and instructions.

These opportunities will appeal to young ambitious individuals who ideally have had a working knowledge of London but now wish to excel in their chosen career with a positive and successful independent company.

We offer a competitive salary, individual-related commission and company car.

Please telephone 01-370-5433 Ref: JME

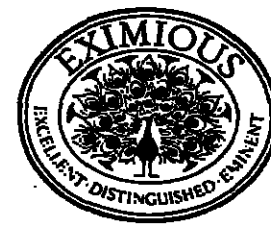
SALES ENGINEERS/MANAGERS

(Two)
£22,000pa + Car, Bonus etc
Our client is a well established manufacturer of QUALITY AIR-DISTRIBUTION PRODUCTS. To make its continued growth and further development of their client base they wish to appoint:

TWO REGIONAL
SALES
ENGINEERS/MANAGERS
to operate in the Midlands and London/South East

GENUINE CAREER
PROGRESSION
will be experienced by suitable personnel who may already be involved within this particular field, or those of a TECHNICAL nature who wish to use their commercial skills in a sales-oriented environment.

Send CV in CONFIDENTIAL envelope to: HRVAC279A,
80 Russell Street,
LONDON WC1B 3PE
Tel: 01-323 8821



EXIMIOUS SHOP SALES

Eximious is a prestigious company, specialising in gifts and monogrammed accessories of the highest quality.

We have Full and Part-time vacancies at our West Halkin Street shop and new Jermyn Street shop for an early or immediate start.

We look forward to hearing from well presented, well educated people with flair and an understanding of our high quality products to become permanent members of our expanding sales team.

Please telephone Mrs Berridge on
01-627-2888

ALPINE DIRECTOR

The British Ski Federation is seeking to employ an Alpine Director who will probably be located in Scotland.

The ideal candidate should have an in-depth knowledge of skiing as his duties will include the direction and overall management of British Alpine skiing which involves team selection, race organisation, sponsorship, budgeting and financial control. General management and financial expertise is also desirable.

Please send CV's to Tom Fitzpatrick, Chairman, British Ski Federation, Broadlands House, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6RA.

APPOINTMENTS
Senior Conveyancer
From £20,000 to £25,000
Developing Primary Health Care Service for the 1990s
PC SALES
Base 20-35 0
PC SOLUTIONS
Base Neg - 40
RECRUITING CONSULTANT
DIES YOUR INCOME
REFLECT YOUR
ABILITY

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 — APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

Senior Conveyancer

From £20,169 to £25,101 (inclusive)

We are looking for a high calibre Solicitor or Legal Executive.

A solid understanding of Property Law is essential and previous experience in either commercial conveyancing or local government would be an advantage.

Following the advancement of the current postholder to a more senior position in another local authority, an outstanding opportunity has arisen to join this prestigious organisation where you will be responsible for dealing with a variety of matters relating to the ownership, disposal and management of the Corporation's property with a commercial bias in a small team.

The Corporation's offices are located within easy access of a number of central London rail termini, including Liverpool Street and Cannon Street Stations. Interest-free loans are provided for the purchase of annual season tickets. Generous relocation expenses are paid in appropriate cases.

If you wish to informally discuss the details of the post then please contact Mr Laurence Bentley (Assistant City Solicitor - Property) on 01-260-1670.

Application Form and further details may be obtained from:

Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
P.O. Box 270,
Guildhall
London EC2P 2EJ
or by telephone: 01-260-1696.

Closing date 28th March 1990.



CITY OF LONDON

Comptroller and City Solicitor's Office

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE

DEVELOPING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE 1990s

We are looking to appoint the following key managers to help in the development of comprehensive primary health care services in Nottinghamshire. The introduction of new contracts for doctors and dentists and other NHS Reforms poses exciting and challenging opportunities for individuals with the flair and enthusiasm to fulfil our vision.

Planning and Research Manager
Medical Services
Development Manager
Service Development Manager
(Pharmaceutical, Dental and Ophthalmic Services)

Salaries circa £17,000
+ PRP + lease car.

For information pack, contact
Sue Peacock by telephoning
Nottingham (0602) 472084, ext. 201.
Closing date: 30th March 1990

PC SALES

Base 20-35 OTE

We are currently looking, on behalf of a number of clients, to attract sales people with knowledge in the following areas:

PC Software packages such as Microsoft and Lotus, Networking, PC Hardware.

PC SOLUTION SALES

Base Neg - 40 OTE

Our client is currently seeking experienced multi-user systems sales person within the small corporate environment. A sound knowledge of networking is desirable.

If you are interested in making a decisive next step in your career then call:

DAVID WEBB
on 01 405 0156
or 0442 54855 (Evn)

LB Consultancy, Kingsgate House
115 High Holborn, London WC1V 6JJ

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

An experienced Recruitment Consultant aged 25-35 yrs is required for the recruitment of senior executives in the financial services industry. If you are dynamic, motivated and have a proven track record, we can offer you a challenging role and an excellent salary package.

Please Phone 01 323 6486 or
Fax 01 323 6487, to arrange an interview.
The Manager, 48 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5AL.

DOES YOUR INCOME REFLECT YOUR ABILITY?

If you are a high achiever, a self-starter, a team player, a problem solver, a go-getter, a person who is always looking for the next challenge, then you will be interested in this opportunity.

With the M.I. Group, you can be a part of a team that is always looking for the next challenge.

There are great rewards in this role, and you will be able to work from home, or in one of our offices.

For more information, please call 01 481 4481.

Sharon Jordan
on 01 481 4481
(Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm)
THE M.I. GROUP

CAN YOU SELL/RENT PROPERTIES

in Kensington?

Are you interested in earning £40,000 p.a.?

If yes then ring

01-602 8737

QUARASHI
CONSTANTINE
London's No. 1
Estate Agents

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Applications are invited for the new appointment of
Director of Communications

This senior appointment arises from the re-constitution of the General Synod's administrative and supporting services.

The Director's initial task and prime continuing responsibility will be to set up and lead the new Church House Communications Unit.

This is a challenging opportunity for an experienced communications practitioner, ordained or lay, who has the vision, commitment and drive to ensure the most effective coverage of the activities of the Church of England in carrying out its mission to proclaim the Gospel.

The post is graded as equivalent to the Civil Service Grade 6 and includes a London Weighting Allowance of £1,750 per annum.

Interviews will be held in London on Tuesday, 15th and Wednesday, 16th May, 1990.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 2nd April, 1990. Application forms and job description may be obtained from:

Miss Anne E. Holt
Personnel Officer
Church House
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3NZ
Tel 01 222 8011 Ext. 466

Lloyd's Insurance Broking Firm require

A Trainee

Sound educational background is required

Please reply in writing enclosing a c.v. to:

Mr. G.A. Marshall
Crowley Colenso Ltd
Ilex House
Minster, London EC3N 1JJ

REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS O.T.E. in excess of £75,000 p.a.

We are a new company, developing, manufacturing and selling our own unique products directly to home owners. Our lead product is new to the market, is easily affordable and has a vast market potential. We currently require four Regional Sales Managers to cover areas in Surrey and Berkshire.

We are looking for smart sales professionals with at least three years direct sales experience and proven track records, able to train, supervise and motivate their own sales teams. A clean driving licence is essential.

We offer a competitive package of basic plus commission. A company car with telephone will be provided after a proving period.

Written applications including curriculum vitae to:

The General Manager,
P.O. Box 63,
TW18 4XD.

PALL MALL MONEY MANAGEMENT

One of the UK's leading Independent Brokers and part of the Chase De Vere Home Loans Plc group of companies, are offering opportunities to be trained in the Financial Services profession in both their Pall Mall and Knightsbridge offices. Excellent package and long term career prospects.

Applicants should be hard working, ambitious and have good communication skills.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT JON GUMPEL

IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE ON

01 581 5111

OR RICHARD MUSGRAVE IN PALL MALL ON

01 580 4272

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

urgently required for rapidly expanding new company.

If you live in
Scotland
Liverpool
Wales
Manchester
or The Home Counties

please call us. We are paying top commission + company car after 4 weeks initial training period.

Tel 01-679 1832.
(Not Home Improvement or Insurance)

A QUARTER OF 1990 HAS ALREADY GONE! ARE YOU ON TRACK FOR THE YEAR?

If you are a recent graduate, with the desire and determination to win through, then a career with Hestley Financial Associates may be for you. We are looking for 2 individuals to train to executive roles. We operate in an exciting and varied environment, where high earnings and management opportunities are available within the first year. In return, you must possess drive, ambition and excellent communication skills.

TELEPHONE: 01 930 5353

OUR SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

The product in our business is not so much the houses we sell... more the people that we employ to sell them. A company like ours does not achieve excellence unless the people we employ can achieve it first. The kind of individual we seek does not grow on trees, because excellence is not achieved without talent, hard work, discipline and, above all, persistence.

The average self-motivated sales negotiator within this industry is not the type we seek. We are looking for individuals (aged 23-plus) who wish to be part of a thriving and substantial organisation. Your contribution to our success is instantly recognised. Methodical training through considerable involvement in your work by some of the most talented managers in the industry is for many one of the prime attractions of a career with Faron Sutaria. Experience of property sales is not essential; we prefer people who have the right attitude and the right ability to those with experience but the wrong attitude.

Faron Sutaria is one of London's premier privately-owned estate agencies. You will expect to earn in the region of £20,000 in your first year and over £30,000 in your second. A car is provided.

If you consider you have what it takes, then please send your application in writing with a detailed CV to: Mr F. Sutaria, Faron Sutaria, 89 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JZ.

Faron Sutaria

ST HELENS GLASS

require

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

in your area

At least ten qualified appointments per week from TV, radio, in-store and newspapers. The successful applicants would have full sales back-up from a highly professional company, selling the finest products available, and could expect VERY high remuneration. OTE £30K p.a.

Ring in confidence on

0800 - 868181

for an immediate interview

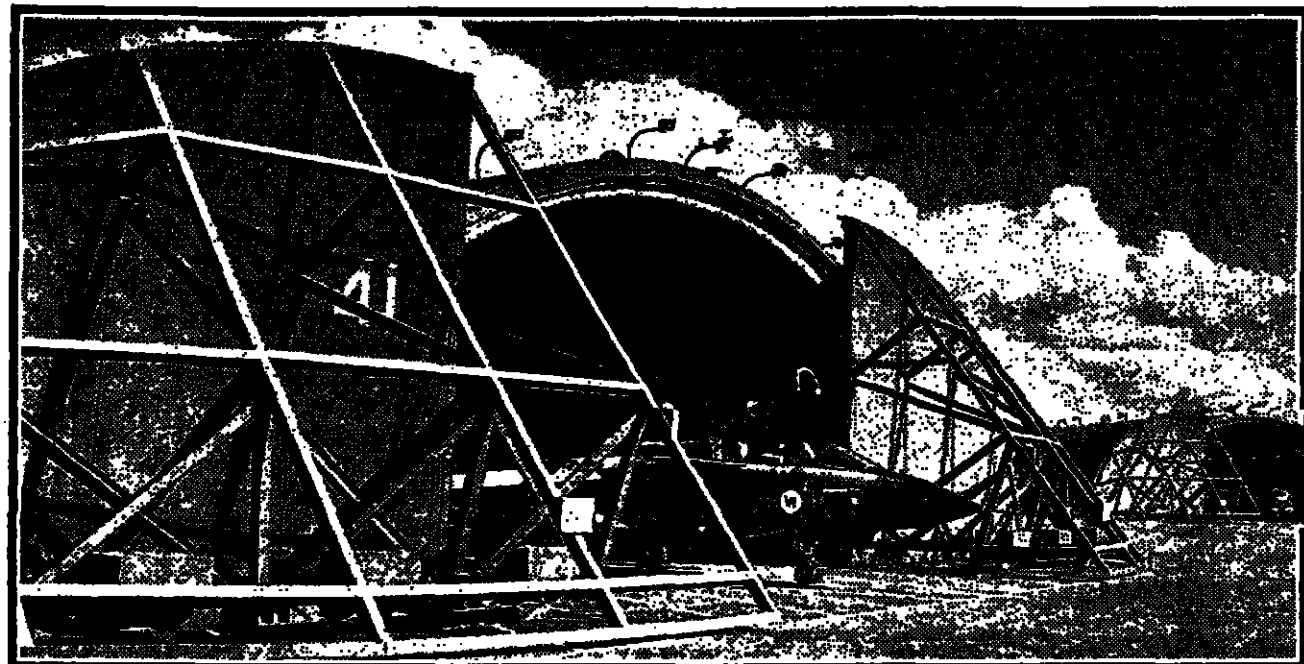
LUXEMBOURG

£20,000

As a recent graduate, you will work closely with the founder though will assume overall responsibility for day-to-day operations, sales, marketing, customer service, stock & quality control, production as well as training & motivation of staff. There is great potential for the right person. Call Sam Harris-Jones on 01-267-5044.

Middleton Jeffers

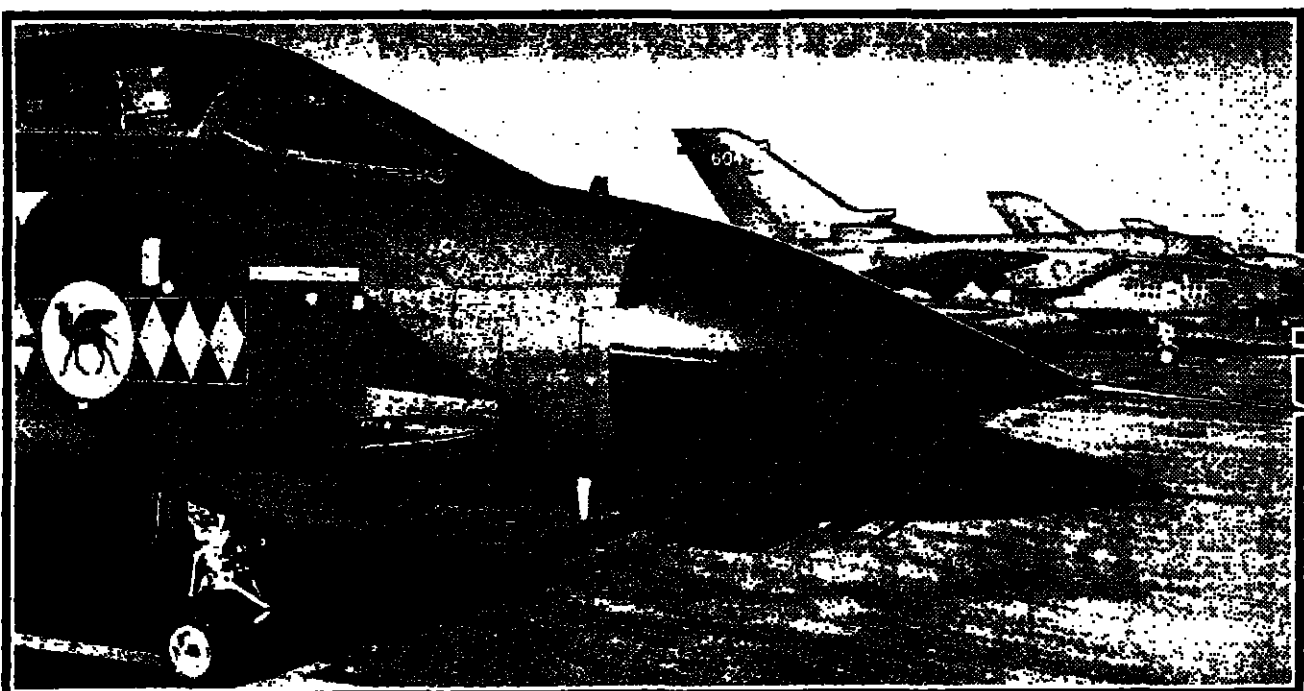
RECRUITMENT LIMITED



YOUR PREMISES



YOUR PEOPLE



YOUR PRODUCT

It is a sad fact that many people with degrees in engineering are no longer engineers.

Even though they had an engineer's natural enthusiasm. Even though they dearly wanted to put their skills to good use. Even though the market is crying out for good young engineers.

Why? Because, after a couple of years in their first engineering job, they discovered they were getting nowhere. No exciting projects.

No promotion. No responsibility.

The result: another good engineer lost.

There is one organisation, however, which offers engineers more responsibility, more quickly, than virtually any other. The Royal Air Force.

From the moment we accept you for training as an Engineer Officer, we expect you to exploit your engineering skills to the full.

More to the point, we positively thrust responsibility at you. Training to be an Officer means training for management. Not the paperwork sort of management either, but real leadership.

Your very first appointment will make you responsible for perhaps dozens of skilled tradesmen and women. They will look to you for leadership, for advice, even for counselling with their problems. In other words, you will be personally responsible for the well-being of an outfit comparable to a fair-sized business.

Commissions in the RAF as an Engineer Officer can be as short as three years.

An accredited degree in Engineering is usually required (though we will consider a degree in any relevant subject). And as a graduate your salary in the first year will be at least £11,841.*

* 1989/90 pay scale.

For more information
ring 0345 300 100 any
time for the cost of a local call

or post this coupon to
Gp Capt. Peter Canning,
Freeport 4335, Bristol BS1 3YX.

Mr, Mrs, Miss

Address

Postcode

Date of birth

Present or intended qualifications

ED 009 12/03

ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICER

Race Relations - We offer equal opportunities.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

MONSOON

Sales Manager

Monsoon is a very successful and individual Fashion Retailer with over 50 shops in the UK and overseas. We have ambitious plans for further expansion and as a result we have a vacancy for a Regional Sales Manager to control our Midland and Northern area which currently has 15 shops.

We are looking for someone who can demonstrate success during their career, in particular in the areas of people management, an aptitude for hard work, attention to detail and creative thinking.

Career opportunities are excellent. We place great emphasis on promotion within the company wherever possible.

The remuneration package includes a competitive basic salary, sales commission, profit sharing after a qualifying period, company car, a very generous clothing allowance, 50% discount on most goods and 4 weeks holiday (5 after qualifying period).

The job can be based in Birmingham, Leeds or York.

Applications together with a full CV should be addressed to: John Spooner, Monsoon, 74 Winslow Rd, London W6 9SQ

RENTALS NEGOTIATOR WINKWORTH

Enthusiasm, energy and commitment is what is needed to join our fast growing lettings office. High earnings potential (basic plus commission).

Sales experience preferred but not essential.

Must be car owner.

Please ring Sally Cannon

01-937 8294

* £30,000 PACKAGE
(NEGOTIABLE BASIC)
* LONDON AND
NORTHERN
HOME COUNTIES

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CONSTRUCTION SOFTWARE)

Technix are market leaders in providing Estimating, Measurement and BOQ systems for the Construction Industry. With an enviable reputation for providing total computer solutions, they are successful innovators and a recognised name for quality within the markets of Estimating, Management and Bill of Quantity Production Systems. To spearhead their expansion in the South-East, Technix now require an ambitious Computer Sales/Construction Industry professional with the desire to succeed in this challenging role. The successful candidate will probably be a qualified professional from within the Construction or allied Industries, but more importantly will be able to demonstrate personal initiative, drive and tenacity. In return, you are offered a generous salary, excellent earnings potential, company car and the usual benefits associated with a dynamic market leader.

CUSTOMER SERVICES EXECUTIVE

As part of their continued growth plan, Technix also need support executives that wish to play a key role in customer liaison and product development. Your experience of working in a QS or Contractors office, ideally with appropriate industry qualifications, will ensure a generous salary and excellent career prospects.

For further information on both opportunities please contact, in confidence, Quentin Hayes at:

The Resource Recruitment Centre
90 High Street, Bexley-In-Arden, West Midlands B95 5BY
Tel: (05642) 4040 - Office (0926) 425893 - Home

LONDON WINE MERCHANT

This is the first opportunity on the way to a wine career, to work in a wine merchant's office and help to deliver around London and help to deliver around London and help to deliver around London.

HAYNES HANSON AND CLARK
17, Little Street
London SW8 4EZ
Tel: 01-738 7676
Contact: Philip Rogers-Cattman

SUMMER JOBS IN THE USA

Comp America needs anyone interested and/or experienced in working with children to work on American summer camps for 9 weeks. Jobs vary from teaching sports, art and drama to kitchen work and seasonal duties.

Comp America offers you free return flight, board and lodging, pocket money and up to 6 weeks for independent travel. If you want more details, are aged 18+ and are free from June to September send a postcard with your name and address to:

CAMP AMERICA, Dept TT 0028
37A Queens Gate, London SW7 5HR

NEWS INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Human Resources Manager

c. £26,000 plus benefits Knowsley, Liverpool
News International Newspapers Limited, publishers of The Times, Sunday Times, The Sun, News of the World and Today will shortly be opening its new printing plant at Knowsley on the eastern outskirts of Liverpool.

We are seeking a committed personnel professional who will be able to establish and manage the human resources function at the plant.

Initially, the job will involve considerable recruitment, selection and induction activities as well as setting up procedures which will be in line with those that exist at the parent company at Wapping in East London.

Thereafter the task will broaden to encompass the development of effective communications systems, manpower planning and progressive relationships between management and staff.

The ideal candidate will probably be between 30 and 40 years of age, of graduate calibre and with IPM qualifications. He/she will be an effective communicator and very much a self-starter. A background in the printing industry will be an advantage.

A good starting salary with 6 weeks' holiday, free medical insurance are just some of the benefits of working for the country's leading national newspaper company.

Letters of application together with a comprehensive c.v. should be addressed to:

Tudor Hopkins
Director of Human Resources
News International Newspapers Limited
P.O. Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD

SYSTEMS & RESOURCES MANAGER

PROVIDE ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION IN A No.1 TEAM

C.£22,000 + BONUS

SIDCUP, KENT

Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Limited is the UK's No.1 soft drinks company and has ambitious plans for expansion. Our plant at Sidcup in Kent (the largest in Europe) is a key element in our strategy and we now have a challenging opportunity within the management team.

As Systems & Resources Manager, it will be your responsibility to ensure that your team provides accurate, up-to-the-minute accounting and management information to support vital decision-making. This will involve analysing, monitoring and developing our wide range of systems and procedures which support activities from budgeting and administration to production planning and materials scheduling. You will also undertake a variety of other management responsibilities.

This is a unique opportunity for someone with exposure to management accounting together with experience of implementing and developing computerised systems. You must be an effective manager of both people and budgets, with the leadership skills to deliver results through others against tight deadlines. A fluent communicator, you should respond positively to changes and new challenges and have the ability to obtain and evaluate information from our management team.

Salary will be around £22,000 plus bonus and comprehensive benefits including assistance with relocation where appropriate. This is a highly visible role in a dynamic management team and career prospects are excellent. Please telephone for an application form or send your c.v. to: Julie Beales, Personnel Department, Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Limited, Charter Place, Vine Street, Uxbridge UB8 1EZ. Tel: (0895) 31313.

COCA-COLA & SCHWEPES

BROADLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£28,000 plus car

The Association currently owns and manages 1,600 units of rented accommodation valued at £60m. The Board has recently adopted a Business Plan with a £15m development programme over the next five years including an element of private sector funding.

The Chief Executive is the principal adviser to the Board and will be responsible to the Members for the implementation of the Plan and the effective management of the Association's property portfolio. The person appointed will be required to lead and motivate the Association's multi-professional team.

Management skills are a paramount requirement but financial knowledge, experience of housing associations and the work of district councils would be an advantage. The person appointed will probably have a professional qualification.

The post is based in Norwich and arises from the forthcoming retirement of the present Chief Executive.

Further written particulars may be obtained from

The Chairman

Broadland Housing Association Limited
100 Saint Benedicts, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4AB

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

required for
Jewish Charitable Organisation

Please Apply with C.V. &
References to

Mrs Young
Hon. Secretary
Box No. A13

Young capable person required for a small fashion jewellery company. Ideally you should be able to drive and be willing to accept mundane as well as exciting work.

£9,000 p.a.
Please send details to David Wainwright 59 Talbot Road, London W2 5JJ.

COMPOSITE/PRODUCTION MANAGER

Supervise and train staff. Experienced all forms production. GPP fully covered. High level of commitment, organisation, design and practical applications. Racing Car Industry. Reply to BOX 730

NEGOTIATOR

Wanted for a dynamic, fast-growing, self-motivated person to assist our successful sales team in the London area. If you are interested in working in an exciting environment then call us now.

Bob & Bunchoff
Tel: 01 386 7561 (ref MRO)

GRADUTES

Three trainee executives aged 21+ required for established London consultancy. Anticipated first year earnings £21,000. Telephone 01-873 9006

DRAUGHT PERSONS REQUIRED

MECHANICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, SANITARY, STRUCTURAL, DRAUGHTING, etc. LONG TERM ASSIGNMENTS. DEPLY 0332-290188 (A&P)

London based retailer

requires Service Manager experienced in the international fur trade, particularly the Japanese fur trade. The candidate should have experience of dealing/negotiating with foreign customers, preferably Japanese. A knowledge of the Japanese language is highly desirable. Good conditions and salary offered.

Reply to box B08

Trade Association Challenge London

Are you interested in food industry matters? Could you liaise effectively with leading figures in industry and Government? Can you help develop key policies for food manufacturers?

An opportunity exists in the Food and Drink Federation for an energetic individual to help service three trade associations each representing different sectors of the food industry, one representing one of the largest of all sectors.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Britain sure to be well represented in Dortmund

By Jenny MacArthur

John Whitaker and Henderson Milton, winners of the World Cup qualifier in Paris last weekend, head the British team of five competing at the Dutch qualifier at 's Hertogenbosch which begins today. The four-day show, which also hosts the final of the Nashua World Cup dressage competition, in which Jennie Loriston-Clarke is a strong contender, is the penultimate qualifier in the European League. After the next, in Sweden in a fortnight, the top 19 riders qualify for the final in Dortmund from April 11-16.

Four of the British riders competing this week - Whitaker, his younger brother, Michael, Emma-Jane Mac, and Nick Skelton - are in the top 10 and virtually assured of a place at Dortmund. The fifth, Harvey Smith, is outside the leading thirty and has little chance of getting there.

With Henderson Milton at the top of the form - Whitaker rates last week's win as one of his finest indoors - their chances of a second successive victory on Sunday must be high.

Whitaker is used to having his brother as the main threat from the home side and this weekend will be no exception. Michael, who finished second behind John in the European championships last summer, will choose between Henderson Tees Hanauer, second at Antwerp, and his Calgary Grand Prix winner, Henderson Monsanta.

Although first place in the dressage final is likely to be disputed by two West Germans, Michael Klimke on Andiamo, Rothenberger on Andiamo, Loriston-Clarke and Dutch Gold may well improve on their fourth place last year.

They finished second behind Entenar in the Brussels qualifier and were third in Paris, where Dutch Gold received his highest marks to date - 1,325 - in the grand prix test.

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SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

British ski team excels

By Jane Wyatt

The British team achieved what many would have thought impossible, by winning a record total of 14 medals at the world disabled skiing championships at Winter Park, Colorado. No previous British team, able-bodied or disabled, has come close to this magnificent result.

Cumbrian-born Matthew Stockford, aged 22, won Britain's first ever silver medal in the downhill (category LW10, severe paraplegia). He also took bronze in the slalom and silver in the combined (downhill and slalom).

Vicky Bourne, aged 18, from Essex, also made history by being the first British woman to win a medal in Alpine skiing at the world championships. She took bronze in the downhill (category B2, partially sighted).

super-grand slalom, grand slalom and combined.

Christine Blackmore, from Hampshire (LW10), was placed third in the downhill and combined, as was Erica Shore, from Edinburgh (LW9), in the slalom and combined events, despite being moved to a category for skiers with less severe disabilities than her own.

Richard Burt, aged 16, from Wiltshire, won bronze in the downhill (B3, visually impaired), the slalom and the grand slalom.

The British team finished seventh among the nineteen nations taking part and its members now have their ambitions fixed on the 1992 Paralympics, but it will take at least £300,000 to get the team there.

RACING: WHIP BANS FOR DAVIES AND DUNWOODY AFTER HARD-FOUGHT FINISH TO CHAMPION CHASE

Brave Barnbrook Again retains title

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

Barnbrook Again showed lion-hearted courage to win the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham yesterday for the second year running, beating Waterloo Boy and giving David Elsworth direct encouragement for the chances of Desert Orchid and Cavies Crown in this afternoon's Cheltenham Gold Cup.

But dramatically, three hours after the feature race, the stewards announced a two-day ban (March 23 and 24) on the winning rider, Hywel Davies, and Richard Dunwoody, who rode Waterloo Boy, for using their whips with unreasonable frequency.

Davies was very disappointed with the decision, saying: "It was a big prize and Barnbrook Again would not have won if I had not given him a couple of back-handers."

Elsworth, delighted with Barnbrook Again, said: "This result doesn't prove anything in that Dessie still has to go out and do it," said the trainer of the nation's idol. "But it shows my horses are in form and it was good to have won this race again."

The crowd of 38,421 mad with excitement as Richard Dunwoody drove Waterloo Boy into a narrow lead at the final jump. But riding with equal strength and determination, Hywel Davies forced the 11-10 favourite's head back in front to win a thriller by half a length. "He's the best horse I've ever ridden," said the Welshman triumphantly as he forced his way through the crowds to the weighing room.

Ferodo, the only Irish challenger for Britain's most valuable two mile race, finished seven lengths away third with Sabin Du Loir fourth.

Pearlman, now 11 years old and attempting to win the race for the third time, broke down before jumping the second fence from home and was pulled up. "He was only cantering," said John Edwards, "but we won't know anything definite about how he is until tomorrow."

Now having won 16 races and having only finished out of the first three once in 27 starts, the ultra-consistent Barnbrook Again had been declared for this afternoon's Gold Cup as a precaution. "We left him in case he fell early on," said Elsworth. "It



The triumphant Barnbrook Again (Hywel Davies, right) and Waterloo Boy (Richard Dunwoody) locked together in the Queen Mother Champion Chase

would have been unprofessional not to do it." However this practice is frowned on by the authorities and the trainer is likely to be fined half a per cent (£500) of the money added for the great race.

The £750,000 Duelling International Hurdle at Franklin in Kentucky is now a likely target for yesterday's winner. "It's a definite possibility and we'd like to be invited," said the trainer. "He would stay the 2 1/2 miles all right. He's best at up to 2 1/2, but he's effective over three. The owner might want to run him in the Gold Cup next year."

The punters had started the afternoon on a triumphant note when Peter Scudamore rode Regal Ambition to a 12-length victory in the opening Sun Alliance Hurdle, thereby giving the all-conquering team of the jockey and Martin Pipe their first victory at this year's festival.

Because of Regal Ambition's supposed dislike for firm ground, many people's bets on the ultra-consistent Barnbrook Again had been allowed to start at 3-2. And the way in which the six-year-old went clear from the second last showed exactly why Toby

Balding had run Forest Sun on Tuesday.

"Everybody was writing that he wouldn't like the ground," said Pipe, "but I wasn't a bit worried. He was our best bet at the festival. This 2 1/2 miles is his best trip and what a chaser is he going to make next year."

Disaster struck favourite backers when Royal Athlete, a 5-4 chance to win the Sun Alliance Chase for Jenny Pitman, fell at the downhill fence on the first circuit. However, Britain's leading woman trainer received handsome compensation when Ben de Haan drove Garrison Savannah up the hill to beat the Irish challenger, The Committee, and Touraine Prince in hand-to-hand.

"I went to buy him at Ballbridge but turned him down," said Mrs Pitman. "All the way back from Holyhead to Lambourn I was kicking myself because he looked so like Corbiere. So I rang up, bought him for £6,000 and sold him on to the owners for £7,500. I am sure he will make a Grand National horse in due course."

Track records continued to tumble like nine pins. No less than four records were broken during the afternoon on the

firm going. And Henry Mann, in winning the Royal Golden Hurdle under 12 stone, broke Trapper John's 24-hour-old record by 10 seconds.

The stayers' hurdle was a chapter of accidents for punters as Rogers Princess, the 11-2 favourite, never looked like repeating last year's win. The equally strongly fancied Taberna Lord was one of three horses to come to grief at the first flight of hurdles when Inde Pulse and Smithonian, who had to be destroyed, also came to grief.

This victory was not only a gallant performance by the top weight, but also a welcome change of fortune for Simon Christian, who had previously finished second in the race twice, with Henry Mann last season and with Mynah Key in 1988. This was only the third winner saddled by Christian since he moved from Lambourn to Mercy Rinnell's former stables at Severn Stoke. "We've had the virus but things are picking up now," he said.

Despite Elsworth's strong and repeated declaration that Cavies Crown is going to run a mighty race in this afternoon's Gold Cup, I am sticking with Desert Orchid to win

Davies prophecy proves accurate

By Christopher Goulding

After dismounting from Royal Stag, runner-up to Barnbrook Again in last year's Queen Mother Champion Chase, Hywel Davies declared: "I will win the race next year."

Little did Davies realize that he would take the two mile championship riding last year's winner, Barnbrook Again.

After an agonizing stewards' inquiry, Davies held his heart and pride. "That was some race to ride in. I have waited 10 years to ride a winner in a race like that."

"The stewards had us in and Richard Dunwoody, on the runner-up Waterloo Boy, did some good talking," continued Davies. "They call me Shakespeare when I am involved in an inquiry, but Richard has taken that mantle now."

Barnbrook Again, who was an eleventh-hour switch to regain his crown in the Queen Mother Champion Chase after declaring for today's Gold Cup, fought like a lion to repel the challenge of Waterloo Boy.

"He is the best I have ridden, the cream of steep chasers," continued Davies. "I know now what Simon Sherwood felt when he rode him to win last year."

"Coming to the second last I knew I had ridden Peter Scudamore on Sabin Du Loir. We winged the last and then had a tremendous fight up the hill with Dunwoody. My horse just won't give in."

The 34-year-old Welshman's career has spiralled since he parted from Tim Forster to ride as a freelance last season.

Davies landed his first-ever festival winner on Tuesday when Katabach, captured the Grand Annual Chase. His new horse has been a good horse for me to win on here," remarked Davies.

However, if Davies doubts his capabilities his fellow countrymen have always been his greatest admirers, awarding him the honour, Farchog (Ged Knight Rider), for his contributions and progress in the saddle.

"I have had some special moments in my life, particularly winning the 1985 Grand National on Last Spectator. But this season has placed together unbelievably well," continued the eloquent Welshman.

"The turning point has to be when I started riding for David Elsworth and won this season's Hennessy Gold Cup on Gharial. I just hope it continues."

SPORTS LETTERS

County cricket drops its roots in the dark ages

From Mr Edward J. Little

Sir, It is astonishing after English cricket has been unable to attract the necessary publicity to its immediate past, that the great and the good who run the county game have, apparently, refused to recognise the Jamaican Spring and have indicated their intention of rooting the game firmly in the past. The reactionaries appear bent on ignoring the needs of the game, preferring to stick to the old ways which have served English so badly in recent years. The examples of other sports should be heeded. Hockey and rugby, for example, have shown the way to go, how properly structured sports with the right people running them can turn out national teams into potential world beaters. Football, on the other hand, seems to be the prize example of how not to do it, quality sacrificed for quantity.

Aerobic fitness

From Mr A. Willey

Sir, I must take up the cudgels on behalf of Paul Ackford, who was performed obliged to take a bit of stick from Mr David Francis (March 1). His rather hostile comments were precipitated because he did not agree with the England rugby international's opinion that, while Seb Coe was possibly a graduate, and no one will know better than he about weight/energy ratios and his upper-limb musculature will reflect that knowledge. It will be fascinating to see if the demands made upon it, namely, to provide the necessary synchronisation between oscillating body parts involving both upper and lower extremities, will be a case of Coe's case, the necessary grasping facility required for picking up trophies.

Yours faithfully,
A. WILLEY,
105 Rawmarsh Hill, Pargate, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

Role of deception

From Mr V. Gormally

Sir, Deception, in one form or another, has always played an important role in ball games. The goody in cricket, the disguised top spin in tennis and, in rugby, the dummy, the scissors, the reverse pass and even the sidestep; all represent methods of misleading one's opponents. What then is the distinguishing feature of the dummy run from the scrum, which seems to attract so much odium? Sports Letters, February 15 and 22, March 1? It is especially interesting to note that in American football - a distant cousin of rugby - the dummy run is the central plank of the game. Is this the direction in which our present crop of scrum halves is pointing, and could this perhaps be the root of our disapproval?

Yours faithfully,
V. GORMALLY,
Croft House, Sculby, Scarborough.

Experience ended

From Mr Philip Fitz-Gerald

Sir, I am writing in dismay at the proposed abolition of the standing area on the centre court of Wimbledon (report, February 17). Not only is this unnecessary but it is inconsiderate to the majority of our population who are unable to acquire a seat on the centre court throughout the two weeks of the championships. The standing area represented the only realistic opportunity for most people to experience the thrill of the centre court. This has now been removed making Wimbledon a place reserved for the wealthy.

Perhaps Lord Justice Taylor didn't take into account the people's feelings towards Wimbledon when he issued his report. I can understand the need for all-seater football stadiums. Unfortunately football has

Sensibilities

trampled on

From Mr Roger Cross

Sir, Your school's rugby correspondent would do well to address what I believe is a fundamental abuse of power by the Rugby Football Schools' Union (RFSU) selectors this year.

Following countrywide county games last Christmas, the best players were invited to final divisional trials in order that those who had played for the North, Midlands, South and South-West, and South-East and London, could play each other. Each boy selected received a letter from the RFSU informing him that those divisional games were England's.

Fourteen the dismay among the four divisional full backs to discover that none of them had been chosen for the final England trial at Nottingham last weekend. These boys had not been chosen at full back for either Yorkshire or the North (he was on the wing) was given one full back position. Worse, the other full back position went to a boy who had not been picked to play in any county or divisional games, but had been a reserve. Both are in the England squad.

This has made a mockery of the selection process, as well as trampling over the sensibilities of the boys who had to cope with shocking weather conditions for every single divisional game in previous weeks - the so-called "England trials".

ROGER CROSS,
The School, Heath, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Doubly difficult

From Mr L. P. Davies

Sir, I was both surprised and dismayed to read (March 6) the comments made by Brendan Barry, Bath's chairman, on the sending-off of John Hall against Plymouth Albion. To say that there had been no warnings issued is absurd and reflects no credit on the club. All the rugby football unions made it clear at the start of the season that particularly stamping - would be severely punished, as it should be by referees.

It reflects little credit on England's leading club that they seem to expect to get away with dangerous play the first time it occurs in a match, and makes the task of first-class referees like Laurie Pridemore doubly difficult to keep the game clean.

Yours faithfully,
L. P. DAVIES,
77 Hartcross, Linton Glade, Croydon, Surrey.

More responsible

From Mr Andrew Hargreaves

AP for Birmingham, Hall Green (Conservative).

Sir, I find it extremely disappointing that companies involved in promoting their products through sports sponsorship, and especially those in the pharmaceutical industry, have not taken a more responsible attitude towards the increasing threat of drug taking to sport in Britain.

Council not answerable to sport

From Mr Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham, Small Heath (Labour)

Sir, I am obliged to David Pickup for the kind comments he made (March 9) upon the extracts of my memoirs, *Made in Birmingham*.

He discusses matters of considerable importance for the country and I am afraid that his response is not entirely satisfactory or accurate. Mr Pickup presumably wrote before he was able to read my book in full and therefore he was not able to comment upon the evidence I provided as to how the director general was asked to resign his office without the involvement of the Sports Council as a whole.

Nor of the way in which the deputy director left the services of the Council. These events caused me, as the Opposition Spokesman for Sport to request a meeting with the Sports Council as a whole which was most unsatisfactory.

As to the nature of the Sports Council and its accountability to sport or to Parliament, Mr Pickup does not appear to understand the importance of the issue I have raised. First of all, ministers have unanimously departed from the arrangements adopted in the White Paper on

Missing factor

From Mrs D. M. Lawton

Sir, There is a breath of fresh air to read (End Column, March 7) of Dr Don Davies's criticism of the competitive and coaching structure of the game in this country. At least it has been brought out that mental fitness is the factor missing in our aspiring tennis players. Sports psychology has almost been a dirty word indicating that players need a "shrink", rather than a coach to train them for the major part of their performance.

When one considers that 75 per cent of a player's time is spent between points and only 25 per cent actually playing, it is surprising that our players lose continually? They are quite simply not trained to use that 75 per cent of court time to gain 100 per cent benefit from the 25 per cent playing time. Some players, notably Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl, have developed their mental skills to a very high degree without help, but the vast majority do not have that ability and need professional help.

American juniors are now coached in mental skills as thoroughly as they are in playing skills, and their coaches are being trained to do just this. There are many professional

Cheltenham

Geology good

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Hall has 60-day ban from Bath

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

John Hall, the former England flanker, who was sent off earlier this month for the second time this season, has been suspended for 60 days by his club, Bath. He has yet to appear before a Somerset disciplinary committee, which meets on Tuesday to consider that punishment is sufficient and whether to take steps against the club, which has had five dismissals this season.

Whatever that decision may be — Hall had already been banned for 30 days after being sent off against Rosslyn Park in October — Bath are to be congratulated for taking action rather than leaving it to others.

Clive Howard, the Bath secretary, said they had acted "bearing in mind the high profile generated by the club and its desire to protect its standing, particularly in view of the written warning given to players by the club president last November".

The decision endorses the club's "determination not to condone lack of discipline on the field". Hall was sent off by Laurie Pridemore, the former England panel referee, in a Friday evening game against Plymouth Albion for stamping.

If Somerset upheld the 60 days, it would leave Hall available to play in the Pilkington Cup final on May 5 — assuming, of course, that Bath beat Moseley in the semi-final on March 24.

Hall said: "I think it's fair enough. Obviously, I have been sent off twice, so it's not as if I was not expecting a club ban."

Whip ban for two top jockeys

Richard Dunwoody, Desert Orchid's jockey, and Hywel Davies were both banned from riding for two days (March 23 and 24) for excessive use of the whip in a dramatic finish to the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham yesterday (Michael Seely writes).

Their sentence was announced three hours after the race, in which Davies had driven Barnbrook again to a half-length win over Dunwoody on Waterloo Boy. Barnbrook again is trained by Desert Orchid's handler, David Elsworth, and was repeating last year's win in the race.

Both jockeys are to consult their solicitors before deciding whether to lodge an appeal. Davies said later: "Without a few back-handers, Barnbrook again might not have won. Don't forget I have a responsibility to the owners and to the betting public to do my best on the horse."

Sheffield auction threat deepens take-over fears

By Ian Ross

The fear that the proposed sale of Sheffield United may turn into an unseemly auction will prompt several of the club's directors to seek a meeting with Reg Brealey, the chairman, tomorrow.

Brealey will return home from a business trip to India to discover mounting opposition to his plans to sell a controlling interest in the South Yorkshire club to Wisam Kadhim al-Hashimi.

Eleven days ago, Hashimi, an Iraqi-born, London-based businessman, was revealed as the public face behind a consortium of Middle East backers which had agreed in principle to purchase 51 per cent of Brealey's 63 per cent equity for about £5.2 million.

Hashimi and Brealey declared the deal to be "water-tight" but two more prospective buyers have emerged to declare an interest.

Paul Woolhouse, a director of the club, who runs a metal business in Sheffield, announced at the weekend that he had sufficient local backing to launch a counter bid, and earlier in the week, a third consortium, led by Keith Haslam, the son of Harry Haslam, the former United manager, declared that it, too, was preparing an offer.

The fact that Woolhouse has indicated a readiness to

pay an estimated £6.2 million for Brealey's shareholding — £1 million more than Hashimi's "accepted" bid — and that Haslam and his fellow investors may be tempted to offer more, is causing consternation within the board.

Derek Dooley, the managing director of the club, who opposes the Hashimi deal, admitted yesterday that he was becoming worried about the possible effects of the uncertainty on United's public image.

"I shall be seeking a meeting with Mr Brealey when he returns home because we all want the air clearing and we want that done quickly," he said. "So much has happened over the past week or so and very little of it would appear to be in the best interests of Sheffield United Football Club. I do not want to see this club involved in some kind of auction because the damage to our image would be immense."

If the deal with Mr Hashimi is as watertight as we have been led to believe, then all other offers should by now have been dismissed, but that has not happened and I have to ask, why not? Since Mr Hashimi made his bid we have already had two other groups expressing an interest; if things are not finalized

quickly, we could have any number of people coming in with bids.

Dooley believes that his club's attempt to win promotion to the first division this season could ultimately be undermined by the continuing unrest at boardroom level.

"I am already being stopped in the street by our supporters and asked what exactly is going on," he said. "People are worried that all this uncertainty could eventually rub off on the players. I can fully understand their concern."

Hashimi's proposed takeover is not only causing unrest in the city of Sheffield itself but also in Saudi Arabia. Lawyers acting for Sheikh Abdul Momenah have indicated that they are preparing to take legal action against Hashimi for allegedly allowing the sheikh's name to be associated with his attempted purchase of United.

"We are considering suing him for damages," Dr Jamal Nasir, the sheikh's legal adviser, said. "The sheikh has no knowledge of this matter at all and he has no interest in becoming involved with any English football club."

Hashimi has denied that he had ever implied that his consortium's attempts to seize control at Bramall Lane.

Cascarino's path is clear

By Dennis Shaw

A meeting between Tony Cascarino, the forward, and his Millwall chairman, Reg Burr, has cleared the way for the Republic of Ireland international to sign for Aston Villa today for £1.5 million.

The only big obstacle barring Villa's record signing being completed was removed when Millwall agreed to pay Cascarino the balance of his signing-on fee from when he moved to The Den from Gillingham in June 1987.

Yorath ready to return as Swansea manager

Terry Yorath is expected to be named manager of the third division club, Swansea City, this morning, just 12 months after his departure from the club and two days after the dismissal of Ian Evans, following a disappointing run of results (Ian Ross writes).

Yorath, the part-time manager of Wales who was dismissed by Bradford City, of the second division, last week, met Doug Sharpe, the Swansea chairman, yesterday.

His interest in the post was underlined when he cancelled a trip to Frankfurt to help arrange Wales's European championship qualifying fixture list in preference for a

meeting with Sharpe.

● Denis Mortimer, the former Luton Town chairman, who left the club five years ago, has shelved an offer to buy his way back into the club.

● Chelsea have rearranged their League game against Manchester City on March 24 to March 21, because of their Zenith Data Systems Cup final clash with Middlesbrough at Wembley 24 hours later.

● Birmingham City have removed the perimeter fencing in front of the Spion Kop section of their St Andrew's ground after talks with the club's safety advisers.

● The move of Gary Stevens, the former England defender, to Portsmouth was in the balance last night after complications with his medical.

He was due to join the second division club from Tottenham Hotspur for £250,000 following a two-month loan period at Fratton Park, but will now have to wait until today before the problems can be sorted out and the deal completed.

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